WHY HIRE A HOUSE?

Why hire a house, and pay rent year after year, when you can

Buy your House

on a simple plan of easy instalment payments through the

CITY LIFE Assurance Co., Ltd.

Particulars free from D.B.J.B. (D. Bailey, F.S.S., Gen. Manager),

6, PAUL ST., FINSBURY, E.C.

HOW TO ECONOMISE! *See the "J.B." Pen Announcement on Page 22.*

JOHN BULL

VOL. XXVII. No. 713. SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1920. TWOPENCE.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

Mercedes RUSSIAN BLEND Cigarettes

contain all the delicate aroma and sweet fragrance that make Russian Cigarettes unique.

11D. for 20

of all Tobacconists.

H. Morris & Sons, Ltd., London, N.

Resting, but Watchful

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

£1,000 FOR A BULLET

By Appointments to H.M. The King

The Dependable Milk

"Ideal" is the richest, purest cows' milk with all its original cream; it is milk you can depend upon—always; you can depend upon it for Purity and Freshness, for the full value and the full nutriment that milk should yield you. Insist always on

IDEAL MILK

and beware of inferior brands which contain more water and much less cream than "Ideal."

Sold Everywhere.

Cash Price 11d. & 6d. per tin.

A dainty book of recipes in which "Ideal" can be exclusively used in place of fresh milk and cream will be sent post free on application to

NESTLÉ'S, 6 & 8, EASTCHEAP, E.C.3

'Ever-Ready' Safety Razor

A quick, clean, smooth shave is a good start to the day's work. The handy little 'Ever-Ready' Safety Razor with its 'Radio' Blade glides smoothly over the face, removing the toughest 'stubble' in a moment. The sturdy frame of the 'Ever-Ready' is good for a life-time of service. It is the world's best Safety Razor regardless of price and is sold everywhere.

THE 'EVER-READY' OUTFIT COSTS ONLY **5/-** COMPLETE WITH SEVEN 'RADIO' BLADES.

Spend 5/- to-day on this perfect shaving instrument and treat your face to the finest shave it has ever known. The 'Radio' Blade will keep its wonderfully keen cutting edge through repeated shaves.

'Radio' Blades

are sold separately at all good stores

6 for 1/6 or 12 for 3/-

Beware of and refuse inferior substitutes.

EVER-READY' SAFETY RAZOR Co., LTD., 130, Gt. Portland St., W.1.

Hæmorrhoids

Germolene Instantly Stops the Irritation and Pain of Piles and Gives Long-lasting Relief.

One dressing with Germolene gives relief, not merely for the moment, but relief that lasts. Germolene is planned on the Aseptic or latest system of medical treatment, and entirely supersedes old-fashioned pile ointments which depended for their effect on germ-destroying antiseptics. It is not enough to destroy germs, they must be excluded; and it is because Germolene excludes them, and also draws out all toxic matter, that it is so immeasurably superior to these products of a less advanced age.

The Salve that Soothes at a Touch.

One of the active principles in Germolene is the extract of a North American plant, long used by the native races as a remedy for snake bite and poisoned wounds, and combined with this are healing principles of proved efficacy.

Germolene is the proved home remedy for skin troubles, including

Eczema
Ulcers
Bad Legs
Ringworm
Burns & Bruises
Piles
Itching
Skin Eruptions
Chapped Hands
Chilblains

Price in Great Britain **1/3** per tin.

From Chemists and Stores everywhere. Larger and more economical size, 3s. Ask always for Germolene, and refuse every substitute or imitation. There is nothing just as good.

Sole distributors: THE VENO DRUG CO., Ltd., Manufacturing Chemists, Manchester, England.

WHY BOOTS ARE "SCRAPPED"

THE general cause of boots being "scrapped" is ruination of the foundations, caused by constant repairing. Yet the uppers may be capable of a lot more wear. Boots are such a heavy expense nowadays that one needs to extract the utmost wear from them.

BARRATT'S DOUBLE-SOLE, DOUBLE-WEAR BOOT shows how this can be done.

ECONOMY.—The boot illustrated possesses a "clump" or Double Sole giving at least 10 weeks' extra wear.

LONG WEAR.—The foundation NEVER gives way, because it is never disturbed, and will remain intact however many times repairs are effected, thus enabling one to get the last ounce of wear from the uppers.

HEALTH.—No wet can possibly penetrate the sole even after repairs, for with the foundation always intact, there are no joints to allow damp to enter. Therefore, this boot is ideal for the bad weather.

Made from best-grade Box Calf open tabs, double soles of tough texture; welted; strongly built. Every pair guaranteed solid leather. A splendid winter walking boot, medium weight.

SEND 37/6 for Sample Pair.

Style No. 1655.

LONDON DEPOTS:
98, OXFORD STREET, W.
1 & 2, CHEAPSIDE, E.C.
97, FENCHURCH ST., E.C.
163, STRAND, W.C.
337, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
12, TOTTENHAM Ct. Rd., W.

Send 2d. postage for large Illustrated Catalogue.

SIZES: All Gent's sizes stocked from 5 to 12 (size 12 1/- extra). Each size made in four widths: narrow, medium, wide, and extra wide. If size is not known, send pencilled outline of stockinged foot. Boots exchanged or money refunded if unsuitable.

Post Orders to Sole Manufacturers:

W. BARRATT & Co., Ltd.

(Dept. J),

"Footshape" Boot Works, NORTHAMPTON.

JOHN BULL

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."
Milton.

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

"For forms of government let fools contest;
Whate'er is best administered is best."—*Pope.*

Vol. XXVII. No. 713. Week ending Saturday, January 31st, 1920. Twopence.

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The Wrekin Election.

All goes well! By the time this issue is published, Mr. Palmer will have been duly nominated as Independent Candidate, and next week we hope to be able to give a fairly accurate forecast of the result of the poll—which is definitely fixed for Saturday, 7th February—although, of course, we shall have to wait another fortnight for the Absent Voters' papers before the result is announced.

A Real Labour Candidate.

By the way, whilst Mr. Duncan, the nominal Labour candidate, was able to remain peacefully ensconced in the Division over the week-end, Mr. Charles Palmer accompanied us to town by the midnight train from Stafford—at the close of a series of night meetings—and put in many hours' strenuous work in connection with the production of this journal, the *National News* and the *Sunday Evening Telegram*—returning to resume the fray by an early train on the Monday morning. Talk about an eight-hour day!

De Frece for Ashton.

Whilst we are busy helping to get Palmer in for Wrekin, we gather that De Frece is "the goods" for Ashton-under-Lyne. Of course, we wish there had been a truly Independent candidate for this Division, but, in his absence, there can be no question that, on the score of personal merit and public usefulness, Sir Walter stands out by himself.

"Political Prostitution."

According to the *British Citizen*, our action in first seeking the sanction of the electors of the Wrekin Division in regard to the candidature of Mr. Charles Palmer was "a prostitution of political standards." What is our contemporary's definition of political virtue?

Getting their Deserts.

Another contemporary—this time the *Co-operative News*—tells us that if the electors of Wrekin are "dull-witted enough to swallow our absurd economic propositions," then they deserve to have Mr. Palmer as their Member. We think they will get their deserts.

More Yankee Bluff.

What do you think of this, from General Pershing, a few weeks ago—we take our report from the *Detroit News*:—"It was necessary to go through the German Army—to fight through a strongly-fortified terrain—and I knew none but the Americans could do it. The Allies learned that the Americans were the best soldiers in Europe and they gave them the right of way." The joke is intensified by the fact that the General was addressing the "*Veterans* of the World-War."

"The Blood of the Vine."

What a grand old phrase this is. You will find it in Ecclesiasticus—a book which, however apocryphal, is full of very wise sayings.

The "Etterick Shepherd."

Without in any way desiring to prejudice the appeal of the Rev. S. E. Maughan-Etterick against his recent conviction for molesting girls in the Strand—which we made the subject of a "Candid Communication" to him in our last issue—we commend the action of his Bishop in suspending him until he has succeeded in clearing his character.

AN HISTORIC ELECTION.

READERS OF "JOHN BULL" ASKED TO HELP.

As our readers are aware, our Assistant Editor, Mr. Charles Palmer, is now contesting the Wrekin Division of Shropshire as an Independent candidate. The Editor is doing all in his power to assist, and there are already good grounds for anticipating that the result will be a great surprise for the various Party organisations. The Poll has been fixed to take place on Saturday, February 7th, and in the meantime we earnestly appeal for help—not only in the way of canvassers, but particularly by the loan of vehicles of all kinds—cars, carriages, wagonettes, lorries, vans, etc.—for the conveyance of electors from the outlying districts to the booths. Will any reader able to assist us in this direction send his name and address at once, with full particulars of what he is prepared to do, to Mr. Charles Palmer's Central Committee Rooms, Duke Street, Wellington, Salop?

The Kaiser.

What did we tell you! How much longer will the country stand this fooling? If only the soldiers had been left to finish the job on November 11th, 1918!

What about the *Deutschland*?

By the way, what about getting together a volunteer crew to take the *Deutschland* over to Holland and bring the Kaiser away on board his own devilish sea monster? If there is any difficulty about the place of trial, we repeat our suggestion that he should be arraigned on the vessel's deck and, if convicted, sunk with her to the bottom of the sea.

The Orgy of Crime.

There is only one way to put down this after-war outbreak of crime, and that is to introduce the "cat." The experience of all Judges is that a man has rarely been known to come up for a second edition of that form of punishment.

A Justifiable Strike.

Congratulations to the "Pearl" men on their victory, and to the *Daily Mail* for the part it played in helping them to secure it. We are glad, however, to remember that for several years past we championed their cause.

Asquith and Paisley.

We are glad that Mr. Asquith has decided to stand for Paisley, and, having regard to all the special circumstances of the moment, we sincerely trust he will get in. His patriotism being beyond doubt, his presence in the House during these critical days of national reconstruction should prove invaluable.

A Tip to the "Trade."

The licensed victuallers must be on their guard if they don't wish to be pushed out of business by gentlemen of alien descent. Amongst the recently advertised applications for licences we find the following names in the Westminster district alone:—Chong Choy, Pompeo Erbetta, Abel Giandolini, Giovanni Bassi, Mario Missaglia, M. Parmigiani, Arthur Schrynemakers and Turillot Ristori Togni.

The Housing Problem.

When is the British and Foreign Bible Society going to vacate its palatial premises in Queen Victoria Street—which must possess a rental value of many thousands a year—for a habitation more in consonance with the teachings of the Master whose gospel it is formed to circulate?

Tobacco and Valour.

That was a fine record announced at the recent meeting of the British American Tobacco Co. as to the War service of its staff. It appears that 3,400 joined up—265 being from the London office, and of this number 1 in every 8 was decorated for valour, whilst the percentage of decorations for the whole staff was 1 in 15. The Company may well be proud.

Government Profiteering.

It was that progressive Sunday journal, the *National News*, which first disclosed the shameful profiteering on the part of the Government in connection with wool. We suggest to our enterprising contemporary that it should now turn its attention to the similar bad example in the case of food. Remember that in one year alone the Food Ministry made a profit of three million pounds.

Local Limerick.

[*Ellen Medhurst, 15, was, at Tonbridge, placed under supervision of the missionary for two years. She broke into a shop and passed the night there, eating sweets and oranges.*]

There's a girlie whose joy was to stop
All night when she burgled a shop—
(Not Harrods or Gorringes)
Eating sweet stuff and oranges,
But for two years such sprees she must drop.

No Coal for Babies.

Will the Scottish lawyer who runs the coal industry in this country kindly get a move on and take some coal in to Aston Abbotts, near Aylesbury, where shivering old and sick people and expectant mothers—"two new babies at least are expected in the village any day," so 'tis said—have had only half-a-hundredweight of coal in three weeks? There is no gas in the village, but at a pinch the folk can do without gas, even the Controller's. But they want coal.

Too Old.

A well-educated gentleman who has held high official position as a Colonial mining engineer, and who like so many others did a lot of unrewarded work in this country as a Volunteer during the war, has been turned down by the Ministry of Labour for any suitable job going because, to use his own words, "though I am very fit and well, and do not feel or look more than 50, I am well over 60 years of age." They have nothing for a man who knows "German, French, Dutch, Spanish, etc., and all the natural sciences." We are afraid our friend is not alone in being treated so scurvily.

Pity the Poor Postwoman.

We were never in love with the Unemployment Dole, an anamoly of which is that it applies to ex-W.A.A.C.s, W.R.E.N.s, R.A.F.s and munition workers, but not to the demobilised postwoman—who, while the need existed, tramped the streets and roads in all weathers, frequently carrying a burden that many a man might have jibbed at, but for far less than a man's pay. Such women were war-workers in a very real sense.

Callous Bumbles.

Down at Croydon they will not allow perambulators in the Cemetery. It is a stupid regulation, productive of great hardship. Imagine the feelings of a man and wife desiring to pay a tribute of respect to their honoured dead being turned back at the Cemetery gates because they had their baby with them, as the little mite's carriage could not be allowed inside. Result, the weeping woman must wait outside while the husband goes alone to lay a few flowers on the humble grave. It is ever the delight of Bumble to place obstacles in the path of the simple human affections. What is the official excuse?

Cruelty Unawares.

Audrey Buckler, a youth, son of a Yetminster farmer, was charged at Dorchester with cruelty. He drove a number of lame sheep along the road. The worst of the lot was a lamb so bad with foot-rot that when seen ten miles from its destination it was hobbling on its knees. He alleged, in his own defence, that he did not notice any of the sheep were lame, and would not know a lame sheep if he saw one! On the ground that he did not realise he was cruelly treating the animals, the Bench dismissed the case. Surely owners at least should be made responsible for the fit condition of animals.

"No Children."

Out of six "to let" advertisements in a Kentish newspaper, four contain the hideous "no children" stipulation. One brute announces, "children objected to"; another says, "No children in house; none taken." It is difficult to understand the mentality of such unnatural beings, but it is noteworthy that they are careful to hide their real identities. The advertising of such inhuman sentiments should be punishable as an offence against the State and against nature.

An Unhappy Phrase.

We cannot congratulate our contemporary *Pitman's Journal* upon the felicity of the phrase in which, describing the demobilisation of our victorious Armies during 1919, it speaks of "the welcome home of millions of disbanded British conscripts." Apart from its literal inaccuracy as applied to the large number of volunteers comprised in the returning drafts, the term has a harsh ring, which will be justly resented by men whose valour, whatever the circumstances of their enlistment, has been placed beyond doubt or cavil. The slight may have been unintentional, but it was a bad slip all the same.

A Boycotted Boche.

At Swansea there is a German who is out of employment for the reason that his fellow-workmen will not work with him. The kindly Guardians, however, pay him £2 weekly for his maintenance, so that he is better off in idleness than many a British ex-Service man who, unemployed, has to exist on 29s. a week. Mrs. Kelly, one of the Guardians, expressed the opinion that the men who have a very natural objection to working with a Hun "ought to be ashamed of themselves." It is a shameful thing that the ratepayers should be called upon to provide £2 weekly for the support of one of our "late" enemies. Cannot the man be sent back to his own country?

HOW TO ECONOMISE!
See "JOHN BULL" PEN ANNOUNCEMENT on page 22.

As Per Usual.

Seeing an announcement in *Surplus* that a special kind of timber—silver spruce—was on sale, a would-be buyer wrote to the Imported Timber Disposal Section, Board of Trade, for details. He had a nice letter saying quantities were lying at Liverpool and Manchester, and capping the information with this:—"The National Stock is being disposed of through recognised timber merchants, after the custom of the Trade, and I would thank you, therefore, to put your enquiries through your usual timber merchant." So the merry game is still played in the old bad way.

Ex-Soldier Handicapped.

Unable after his demobilisation to obtain employment as a butcher's assistant, a Stockport man decided to start in business for himself. It took him six weeks to obtain a licence. When he had done so, he applied for his buying permit and was informed that by the still existing Order of January, 1919, only those who were in business in 1914 could be allowed to purchase English meat. True, he can deal in the imported article, but how can he with that alone compete against other shops? You can fight for your country, but you mustn't sell her meat.

A Wonderful Project.

Mr. Fredk. H. Masters, of the London and Provincial Agency Company, Cheapside, E.C., is anxious "to help you to open up in the smallest way possible." You send Mr. Masters £1 13s. 9d., in return for which he supplies a couple of "sample blouses" which you are at liberty to hawk around among your lady acquaintances, netting a nimble 3s. 9d. every time you "click." We will merely add that, as the profit is relatively small and the promised fortune considerable, agents must look "slippy" and not go to sleep in the daytime.

No Extravagance.

About eleven o'clock one November night a chauffeur picked up, at the end of Tottenham Court Road, a mail-bag, full, evidently dropped from a lorry, and took it to the Post Office. An official has now called with a large parcel of documents and two-and-sixpence, the latter being handed over as a reward for restoring the mail-bag. This shows that at least one Government Department does not indulge in reckless expenditure. The little bit it did give away has been forwarded by the recipient for our "Greatest of These" Fund.

Let's be Fair.

Now that the Unemployment Donation is reserved for ex-members of His Majesty's Forces, there is far less room for complaint than when any hardy loafer could declare "on the State." We have therefore no hesitation in saying that only clear proof of dishonesty, which was certainly not forthcoming, should have exposed an ex-soldier to such harsh and unfeeling criticism as was heard at a recent meeting of the Stonehouse Board of Guardians, where the poor fellow had to "show cause" why he should not keep his mother. If a recipient of State benefit is a cheat and a wastrel, by all means let him be censured and punished, but in the absence of any such imputation he is worthy of all respect.

Bumble at Croydon.

The pitiful story of a Croydon soldier who left the Army shattered in health, and died after unavailing treatment in a Poor Law institution, leaving a widow, and six children under fourteen years of age, was lately unfolded at a meeting of the Croydon branch of the N.F.D.D.S.S. The local Guardians, having learned that the poor fellow had a sum of money deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank, exercised their undoubted legal right and claimed £10 for the sufferer's maintenance for the time he was in the infirmary and hospital. But in exercising that right they were morally guilty of the crime of robbing the widowed and fatherless, and we cannot think that the ratepayers of Croydon approve this action.

Tractarian.

A few days ago a man from the "International Tract Society, Ltd."—*alias* the Seventh Day Adventists, a strange sect, founded by an artful dodger who beguiled farmers with his "miracle wheat"—called on a Wembley Park resident and induced him to hand over 1s. 6d. for a paper-covered volume, on the plea that he was working on behalf of home missions. However, on examining the book the purchaser found it to contain, *inter alia*, a tissue of lies and misrepresentation on Prohibition and smoking, also "a most outrageous attack on the Roman Catholic Church." He was thus led into contributing eighteen-pence to "causes which are disastrous to the nation." He has our sympathy.

Local Limerick.

(Sir Harry Lauder has brought an action against one of his tenants, a farmer, to declare the tenancy at an end. It is said the new tenant would be Sir Harry's brother-in-law.)

There was a gran' comic named Lauder,
Who now plays the laird o'er the Border;
To his tenant's alarm,
When he fancies a farm,
Lauder flees to the law for an Order.

Buttons.

The Button Manufacturers' Association has called the attention of the Profiteering Act Department to the fact that "the exorbitant prices charged by the manufacturers of Welsh blackplates and tinplates" are "causing great injury to the button industry in this country." If buttons go up any more, one hesitates to anticipate what may come down. In the last desperate resort, many of us would have to fasten ourselves together with safety-pins or hold ourselves up with string.

The Privilege of Standing.

To the Manchester Hippodrome a man took his wife, in search of entertainment. He got it. The only available seat, in the arena stalls, he booked for his wife, at a cost of 1s. 10d. On his own account, he took a standing-room ticket for the same part of the house, to be by his wife. The cost was 2s. 4d. Where the entertainment comes in, is the fact of being made to pay 6d. more for standing room than for a seat. It is a ridiculous proposition, but must pay the management in practice.

In One Room.

Here is a cry we cannot resist. A woman lives at Hanwell in the house of her sister, the only shelter she could procure. "My husband and myself occupy one room with our three children, and another expected. He did his bit, and it has aged him so very much that, instead of only 40, he looks 60. Ever since last March we have been unable to make a home. Isn't this a disgrace to the country?" It is certainly no credit to authorities who seem unable or unwilling to move in the matter.

Tobacco Query.

Question asked from Rotherham: "The United Tobacco Companies have recently declared a dividend of 30 per cent. free of income tax, and in spite of this threaten us with an increase in the price of our smokes. Is this profiteering?" The answer is that the guileless McCurdy and his whitewashing sub-committees have convinced themselves that the combines are as innocent as a babe unborn, and they will be exceedingly obliged if the public will believe it. Our own impression is that, if they do believe it, they will believe anything.

Drunkenness and Death.

When a chauffeur named Cecil Arthur Law was charged at East Croydon with "being drunk while driving a motor-car," and "causing the death" of an unfortunate pedestrian, the Divisional Police Surgeon certified that the defendant was "under the influence of alcohol and unfit to take proper care of his car." However, the Magistrate, Mr. Chester Jones, thought the accident was not due to this cause, and the prisoner was therefore released on payment of 40s. and costs, his licence to be suspended for six months. It implies no criticism of the Magistrate's findings to suggest that if sentences of this sort are to prevail, the risk of fatal road accidents will be enormously increased.

Giving an Opening.

It is almost incredible that the Firth of Forth, one of the most jealously-guarded estuaries of Scotland during the war, should now be thrown open to all and sundry. Compulsory pilotage has been abolished, and alien ships are now free to sail within hailing distance of one of our most important Naval bases. Has the war taught us nothing?

Apprentice-Soldier.

An apprentice at Margate joined up when 18, served in Palestine, etc., was invalided out, and returned to finish his indentures, which have nine months to run. An apprentice's wage being next to nothing, he—now nearly 22—is in a sad position because of his faithful services. The Ministry of Labour tell him nothing can be done for him. Yet we certainly thought there was a scheme in existence for the express purpose of helping just such a case as this.

The Tracer.

A "capable tracer" is required in the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department of the Hammersmith Council. It is highly-skilled work, technical and artistic. Hammersmith Council wants three testimonials and a specimen of the applicant's abilities, promising him, if appointed, 50s. a week. As all local Councils have been warned to pay labourers not less than £4 a week, this tracer-artist in perspective would seem to be another victim of his black coat.

YOUR LAST CHANCE!
"BULLETS" Record Offer.
£1,000!
FIRST PRIZE.
£250 2nd Prize. £100 3rd Prize.
and over 8,000 other prizes
—MUST BE WON—
See page 24.

Jack Jettisoned.

We should like to know the reason why so many merchant mates and bo'suns display a prejudice against signing on ex-Navy men when engaging their crews. We have lately heard of a case in which a bo'sun took four hours to complete the crew for a comparatively small ship, not because there were no men available, but for the reason that ex-Navy men were barred. But in this instance the comradely spirit of the merchant sailors frustrated the bo'sun's game. They refused to sail without a proportion of their Naval mates. This ignoring of the claim of ex-Service men of both arms is becoming worse than a scandal.

A Family Disgrace.

A recent outburst of indignation on the part of the Staines Guardians is not surprising. A Crimean veteran of 90, in "fairly good health," has been admitted into the local workhouse on the application of his son. In the words of Mr. E. T. Pascoe, "the old man's family have sent him into the 'house' because it is the cheapest institution in the country." That is to say, this family, of whom there are two sons and three daughters in good circumstances, are getting rid of their liability for 10s. a week, the old man having a pension of £1 and the workhouse maintenance charge being 30s. It is a most disgraceful and disgusting exhibition of filial ingratitude. History is apt to repeat itself. It may be the time will come when the grandchildren will put their parents where their parents have put their father.

Motherhood.

For callous indifference to the claims and responsibilities of motherhood commend us to an advertisement in a Leicester paper: "Adoption.—Wanted good home for unborn baby of parents going abroad. Replies in confidence." Going abroad, of course, to "leave no trace."

An Indecent Advert.

"I beg to inform you," writes Mr. F. Hulls, of 153, Coventry Road, Ilford, in a circular to customers, "that P. Lindhorst, Berlin, has appointed me his sole agent in Great Britain, and that I hope to have the pleasure of waiting on you with samples of his specialities in high-class Art Needlework, etc." And it never seems to have occurred to Mr. Hulls that his customers will be otherwise than delighted at his friendly relations with P. Lindhorst of Berlin!

Dry at Bethnal Green.

Pussyfoot seems to have converted the Bethnal Green Guardians. A firm of brewers generously sent two 18-gallon casks of ale for the workhouse inmates. The Guardians are sending those barrels back. A number of instances of gifts of beer being refused by Guardians has reached us, but Bethnal Green has gone one better—or worse. They have deprived poor folk of a wholesome treat actually upon the premises.

Shops and Sugar.

In order not to hurt the sensitive feelings of the British public, Messrs. R. S. Murray & Co., a firm of London confectioners, have sent out a circular imploring their customers "to curtail, as quickly as you possibly can, your window display of chocolates and confectionery." "Already," explain Messrs. Murray & Co., tearfully, "there are indications that the domestic consumers of sugar are murmuring against their present ration, and this will become more voluble when that ration, as the Food Controller recently announced, is shortly further reduced." Messrs. Murray have a gift of prophecy which compels our admiration.

Sweetening the Tanneries.

If the children have to go short of sugar for their puddings while the big wholesale confectioners stuff their pockets, it is comfort of sorts to know that the tanners are getting their share also. "During the last shortage of sugar," we are told, "it was found that in Sheffield alone more sugar and flour were sent to tanneries for faking leather than to all the confectioners and sweet manufacturers in that town put together. It may be a novel idea that the Sugar Commission can afford us sugar for our boots and not for our mouths. The explanation is that the sugar and flour are rolled into inferior leather to make it look worth the damnable price we have to pay for it.

An Owd'am Brute.

James Lawton comes thro' Owd'am, and he is a brute. "Before Mr. J. Fitton and other Magistrates," he was charged with cruelty to a donkey. While the poor animal dragged his rag-and-bone cart, the man continued to prod it behind with a pointed stick. "Hair from the donkey's back had been forced into the wood of the stick. Lawton had been repeatedly warned and was known to be a very cruel man." Messrs. Fitton and Co. let him off for 5s. Wherefore the question arises whether they would allow him to prod them in the back with the same stick for the same money. If so, we will do our best to engage Lawton for a special séance.

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.

To Mr. Drinkwater, Election Agent to Mr. Duncan, Labour Candidate for Wrekin.

DEAR MR. DRINKWATER,—I understand that you are issuing an emphatic denial of a statement I have never made—something about a dispute between Mr. Duncan's clerks and himself regarding their rate of pay. I am afraid that, in common with his Party competitor in the election, Mr. Bayley, Mr. Duncan has "got the wind up" over Mr. Palmer's ever-increasing popularity with the electors. By the way, were you chosen as his Agent on account of your special abilities or your name? I am not impressed with either. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Dr. C. Addison, M.P., Minister of Health.

DEAR DR. ADDISON,—It is pointed out that whilst the State now assumes a definite responsibility for the care of our lights and livers and other essential organs of the human anatomy, it seems to have no interest in our mouths and molars, there being no satisfactory provision for dental treatment for the poor. Among the results of this neglect is the widespread vogue attained by certain forms of dental quackery against which from time to time I have had occasion to warn my readers. I cannot say, of course, how much money you are likely to be entrusted with or what you propose to spend it on, but I fancy you might do worse than give close attention to this matter, with a view to the establishment of a proper dental treatment for those who are unable to afford the fees of private practitioners. Just think it over. JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Watch Committee, Worcester.

DEAR CHIEF,—Your Committee are either awful blunderers or bad judges of men. These Fathers of your ancient City have just dismissed from its police force Chief-Inspector Price, after considering "a further case of alleged forgery of a signature." This is the third Inspector dismissed in succession from the Worcester police, and I believe all three gentlemen were approved by the Committee for the post they have been compelled to quit. On the second occasion I asked you not to let it happen again, but you have sadly neglected my good advice. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that three men placed by you in a responsible and important post should all by turn "go the same way home"—through the back door. Have you meditated a graceful retirement as a sign of regret for your surprising lack of judgment? JOHN BULL.

To His Worship the Mayor of Loughborough, Leicestershire.

DEAR MR. MAYOR,—My attention is called to the fact that you are vigorously importuning the townspeople of Loughborough to raise between £10,000 and £12,000 for a war memorial to take the form of a—carillon of bells. Surely your worship could have thought of something more appropriate than this? On every side your bells project appears to be regarded as a shocking waste of money. This is the opinion of many tradesmen and employers, however much they may disguise their views. As for the workpeople—I notice you are asking them to contribute a guinea if men, and half-a-guinea if women, such amounts to be spread over a period of 42 weeks—they scarcely disguise their opinion at all, from what I hear. To put politely what they say, they hold that the proposed war memorial should take a form either more impressive or more useful. JOHN BULL.

To Sir Gerald Codrington, Chairman, Board of Guardians, Chipping Sodbury.

DEAR SIR GERALD,—It is with the utmost pleasure that I write to thank you for your warm support of Mr. Lawrence Blackmore, an injured ex-Service man, in his successful application for the post of Registrar of Births and Deaths under your Board. If other Boards of Guardians throughout the country showed as much anxiety to employ men who have fought and bled for the Flag, much of the existing unrest would be mitigated. JOHN BULL.

To J. Havelock Wilson, Esq., C.B.E., M.P.

MY DEAR HAVELOCK WILSON,—You are to be congratulated upon the success of your unremitting efforts to secure increased pensions for the widows and dependents of seamen who lost their lives in the war. I see that you are able to announce an advance of 40 per cent., dating back to last September—a substantial boon which, but for your persistent advocacy, might have remained among the pie-crust promises of a forgetful Government. The success of your efforts adds still further to your already heavy claims upon the gratitude of the British Mercantile Marine. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Arthur Morris, Timberman, Llanhilleth Colliery, Newport, Mon.

DEAR SIR,—Never was the Edward Medal for Gallantry in the mine more honourably won than by your successful effort to rescue a comrade buried beneath a mass of falling *débris*. While you were engaged in the work of rescue your own life was in fearful jeopardy, as witnessed by the fact that two minutes after the completion of your task there was a fall of stone from the damaged roof which, had it occurred earlier, must undoubtedly have killed you both. It is not easy to recognise grades of heroism. Enough to say that you are worthy to take rank with those who in the past few years have earned the highest rewards of British valour. JOHN BULL.

To Sir Martin Conway, Director-General, Imperial War Museum.

DEAR DREAMER,—Because you hate garden cities and object to London growing larger, you want to transform our building style. You would flatten out all the East-end, and rebuild it upwards, filling the space with enormous sky-scrapers, 30 or 40 storeys high, each containing thousands of rooms. You would, in fact, forbid London to spread, and force it skywards. After recent unforgettable events, I think you would be almost the only man anxious to live at the very top of one of those dream towers of yours. But you are a famous Alpine climber and mountaineer, and that may account for your queer taste. JOHN BULL.

To Councillor Steve Davies, Llanelly, Car.

DEAR STEVE,—You made rather an ass of yourself at the last monthly meeting of Llanelly Borough Council, when you opposed the appointment of Lieut.-Col. Bramwell Jones to the aldermanic chair. With the obvious intention of prejudicing the Council against the Colonel, you tried to disparage his military services by saying that as a Territorial "he was bound to go to fight." At the outbreak of the war he was bound to do nothing of the sort. Territorials joined for home service, excepting those who signed the Imperial Service form. Colonel Jones was a volunteer in the best meaning of the word, and did not take long to think about it. Unless you can show a better war record than his, you will be wise to keep your mouth shut on this subject. Get me, Steve?

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Charles Coborn, Variety Artist, London.

DEAR "CHARLIE,"—I have been reading of your extraordinary experiences at Monte Carlo where, as all the world knows, you once "broke the bank." This time, it appears, you had no such romantic luck, being actually detained as a "hostage" for the payment of a cinema film company's hotel bill that was in dispute. It is clear that whoever was at fault in the matter it certainly was not you, and I trust that in the end you were none the worse in health or pocket for the unusual adventure. You have had a strange and varied career, of which this, I imagine, was not the least interesting experience. Still, I'll wager you never stopped smiling. Life is great sport, isn't it? JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Sir Eric Geddes, M.P., Minister of Transport.

DEAR SIR ERIC,—Please let me know as soon as possible what steps you are taking to satisfy the public demand for the use of corridor-coaches upon all long-distance trains. There is no need for me to recall the circumstances of the recent tragedy on the Brighton line, the naked horror of which lends added weight to the demand for safer conditions of travel. No one expects you to work a revolution in these matters by a stroke of the pen, but the least you should do is to announce your definite intention of replacing the present "box" compartments, veritable death-traps in case of sudden emergency, by carriages of a communicable type. And please do not confine these amenities to first-class passengers. JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. Gustav Francis Beckh, Oakfield Road Unitarian Church, Bristol.

DEAR PASTOR,—You were born in San Francisco, yet you scorn the almighty dollar. Your stipend was originally £200 a year, increased to £250 during the war, and you are a married man, with a child. But you have firmly refused the offer of an additional £50 a year from your congregation—on the ground that you can manage without it. There are few in this world who would rush to copy your manly example. Your view is that the clergy should set the example of trying to live within their means, and so lead the way back to the old standard of values. I believe your views and mine were not in accord during the war, but I compliment you on your present appearance as one of the few contented men in the Kingdom. JOHN BULL.

To His Honour Judge Harington, County Court, Guildford.

DEAR JUDGE,—It has been a great pleasure to me to note your decision—if I may venture to say so, your important decision—in the case of the Widow Oldham, of Woking. As I gather the facts, the woman rented a house from a solicitor named Sharp, who applied for ejection on the ground of rent owing. It transpired in evidence during the hearing that the solicitor's agent had extorted £3 "key money" from the widow as a condition of letting her the place. She had deducted this money from the due rent and asserted her right to do so. It was represented that the money was a gift. It was proved, however, that similar "gifts" had been received from other people. In the end you came to the conclusion that the money was exacted as key-money, that the exaction was highly reprehensible, that no rent was owing, and that the widow was entitled to remain where she was. In a word, you decided—as I have already advised my readers—that key-money is illegal. Not a few landlords will now sit up and scratch their heads. JOHN BULL.

SERVICE MAN AND SANATORIUM.

A STRIKING CONTRAST IN WORK AND PAY.

A Devonshire ex-Service man, three times shipwrecked during the war, anxious to obtain employment, applied for a situation at Dartmoor Sanatorium. He received a reply from the Housekeeper, explaining that, owing to the difficulty of finding maids willing to live so far in the country, she was "trying men where possible." She continued: "I want a man to look after 10 gentlemen's bedrooms, that is, make beds, empty slops and clean the rooms, also help 2 other men wait at table and with the washing up in the pantry after lunch and dinner—in fact, do ordinary housemaid's work. . . I also want a man to clean knives (by machine) get in coals and wood, light the fire in the nurses' pantry, keep that and their sitting-room clean, carry trays to bed patients in the out-door sleeping huts if needed, and make himself generally useful." When the present value of money is taken into account, to offer a wage of 15s. a week, even with living in and all found, savours of insult to a man who has not long been released from the service of his country.

IT'S A LONG WAY TO GO!

L.C.C. OFFER TO EAST-END ALLOTMENT HOLDERS.

Over seven hundred of the "plotters" in Victoria Park, cultivating bits of land let to them at 6d. a rod per annum, had notice to quit by January 1st, but were invited, perhaps as a piece of soft soap, to state whether they would like another allotment. Naturally the response was in the affirmative, and the outcome is a proposal by the Council to the dispossessed. It takes the form of a printed postcard—one of which is before us, addressed to a man living at Bow. It offers him the chance of an allotment at Jenkins Lane, Barking, the rent being "likely to exceed 1s. a rod per annum." The fare from Bow to Barking, return, is over a shilling. The would-be "plotter" calculates that his travelling expenses, on top of other details, and without counting the loss of time entailed by the journeys, would leave him in such a position that it would be just as well for him to buy his vegetables, even at present prices, instead of growing them. But this, surely, is not the best that the Council can do?

ARMY BLANKETS—AND OTHERS.

"COLONIAL CLOTHING COMPANY" SMARTLY FINED.

The Colonial Clothing Company, of Railton Road, London, S.E., against whom numerous complaints have been received and chronicled by us, met with a serious check at the Gravesend Police Court. The Company—which seems to consist of a man and a woman, Miss Daisy Firmstone and Frederick Smith, who were both summoned—advertised in a Sunday newspaper its sale of "Army blankets." A bargeman named Pedlar duly forwarded 13s. 6d. for two half-size Army blankets, suitable for a single bed. When the goods arrived he was so disgusted with them that he took them at once to the local Profiteering Committee. They ordered a return of 10s.—three-quarters of the price—and instituted proceedings for seeking an unreasonable profit. An experienced man described one of the things as a piece of Army blanket worth 1s., while the other was not Army blanket at all, and was worth 3d. The only real excuse tendered by the Colonial Clothing Company was that the goods were sent in error and were really only cot blankets. The advertisements of the "Company" made no mention of any cot articles, so Miss Firmstone and Smith were each fined £10, with £2 2s. costs. Pedlar, the complainant, was wise in so promptly seeking redress, and any other purchaser having equal cause for dissatisfaction should follow his example.

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FIRST PRIZE	-	£500
SECOND PRIZE	-	£100
THIRD PRIZE	-	£50
Ten Prizes, each	-	£5
100 Prizes „	-	£1
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Write at once to—

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OUR SEARCH FOR BOXING CHAMPION.

"SMILER" HALES ABOUT TO TOUR THE MIDLANDS.

Arrangements are now well in hand for our quest for a British boxer capable of bringing the World's Championship back to this country. As already announced, we are despatching Mr. "Smiler" Hales—the eminent Boxing authority—to various centres where there may be a likelihood of finding a promising boy, and as each candidate comes along he will be put through his facings until we are satisfied that we have discovered the right lad—when no pains or expense will be spared in the completion of his preparation. Writing us a few days ago, Mr. Hales says: "I will go first to Birmingham and work all the villages in the Black Country; go to the pit's mouth and address the men as they come off shift and tell them I'm down for JOHN BULL, to find a real Britisher to whip Hell out of all foreigners. From Birmingham I will work all round until I get some clinking good men, then we can have a grand tournament in London. I can easily work into Wales and a section of Scotland, but I feel convinced I'll find the lad we want amongst those hardy fellows in the Black Country. If so, I can take him along to thump the Welsh and Scotch aspirants in private trials; this will give him experience and confidence. If a man beats him, then I drop the loser and put the winner in his place. I'll get a lad in training in time to beat Fulton—who is returning here to fight Beckett. We, as a Sporting people, are in for another humiliating time when Fulton arrives and again offers to lay ten to one on himself against any British heavy-weight."

Mr. Hales has the co-operation of Mr. Eugene Corri—the famous referee—so we hope soon to be able to place someone in the ring as a potential winner of the World's Championship.

Several names are already before us, and in each case the qualifications of the aspirant will be fully tested. Meanwhile, we invite any reader having knowledge of an exceptionally promising youngster, to communicate with us.

A "BROKEN" OFFICIAL.

DISMISSED PUBLIC SERVANT'S PLEA FOR JUSTICE.

The Postmaster-General ought no longer to resist the demand for an official Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the dismissal from his employment of Mr. F. H. Langdon Davies, formerly Assistant District Telephone Manager at Cambridge. A prominent local journal pays the following high tribute to the public services of the "sacked" official: "Mr. Langdon Davies served us well and truly throughout a critical period; his untiring and successful efforts in connection with air raid warnings have not yet been fully realised or generally appreciated by the inhabitants of Cambridge and County. He never spared himself, so that we might be spared from the Hun frightfulness. His health was broken in his country's cause, and as a reward—God save the mark—his specialised knowledge, acquired by years of painful experience and steady devotion to duty, is taken from us and all others by a narrow-minded, self-opinionated authority, which can ill afford to dispense with the humblest of its servants who has acquired so seasoned a grip of the wonderful vagaries of the Public Telephone Service and its many and flagrant deficiencies." Apparently this "seasoned grip" of local telephone defects was not appreciated by the high mandarins of the Telephone Service, and on account of certain out-spoken criticisms conflicting with the strict canons of discipline laid down for civil servants of the Crown, Mr. Langdon Davies was "retired" from his post, after years of faithful service, with a pension of less than £1 a week. That an official Inquiry would lead to his reinstatement is probable. At the least, it would satisfy an imperative public demand.

WIFE OR SLAVE?

WOMAN AS "CHATTEL"—PLEA FOR AN ALTERATION IN THE LAW.

By Charles Palmer.

WOMAN to-day has gained her liberty. All the old-time nonsense of the weaker sex has been exploded. I can remember the day when man talked of woman as something remote and aloof—just a tender kind of plant only to be nursed in the hot-house of affection. But that day is past. During the war our womenfolk proved that they were made of sterner stuff, and by their splendid services not only in the hospitals at home and in France, but also by their wonderful work in the many occupations left vacant by the gallant fellows who answered the country's call, they showed their grit; they proved their capacity. The vote, given them half apologetically by the politician as a reward for war services, whereas they deserved it by right of citizenship, has set up new thoughts in their minds—new aspirations in their hearts.

A Husband's Chattel.

And that brings me to the immediate purpose of this article—it is to protest against the existing law which still holds a wife to be a husband's chattel. "Goods and chattels"—you know the phrase. And if chattel in law has any meaning, it implies that the wife is the property of the husband like "his ox or his ass or anything else that is his." Could there be a greater indignity inflicted upon a married woman than that she should be regarded as the "property" of her husband? If any other man steals her affection—and many husbands by their own conduct forfeit the love of wife—then the law tells him that he can claim compensation just as if the thief had carried off his horse or his motor-car. It is time this kind of feudal nonsense was brushed aside, and woman were placed in law as she is, in fact, on an equality with man. Parliament has swept away nearly every disability. Before the war, the House of Commons treated the question of votes for women as a joke—Mr. Asquith, on one side, was anti-woman; Mr. Lloyd George on the other. The last Asquith Government only saved itself from defeat by agreeing to differ on the subject, and so we had one Minister standing up and deriding woman's claim, and another, in facetious phrases, enforcing it.

But all that is changed. Parliament has not only given women the vote—that is, women over thirty—it has removed other preposterous disabilities, and to-day there is hardly any profession, including even that of the close corporation of the law, into which a woman cannot enter and pit her brains and industry against that of man. The time will come when even Trade Unions will look with a more kindly eye on the woman worker. At present those who stand behind the Labour Party are doing their best to keep women out of the great industries of the country.

Into Line with Present Ideals.

But woman is making triumphal progress along the lines of liberty, and I plead to-day for such an alteration in the framing of our laws as will remove for ever the stigma of calling a wife a chattel. A wife is the equal and companion of her husband, not a sordid slave. The law which declares she is the property of the man is a survival of prehistoric times, when woman was wooed with a club, and a blow on the head took the place of the betrothal kiss. If I were a woman I would make it my first business to see that the laws of this country were brought into line with our present-day ideals. And, what is more, I declare it to be the pressing duty of the Legislature to put man and woman on terms of equality in all that affects their social and domestic life.

The Power of Money.

We are often told there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. Unfortunately that is true in many cases, for money can put the law in motion and money can secure ways of defence which the ordinary individual of modest means cannot use. But we can, and should, see that the intolerable grievance of one law for the man and another for the woman is swept aside in this era of common sense and fair play. If a woman falls from the path of virtue her husband can thrust her from him—leave her to sink or swim in the great whirlpool of life. But a man may offend grievously, and the unhappy woman can do but little. I am a great upholder of the influence of domestic life. I believe that the patriotic spirit of this country rests upon the hearthstone, that the self-denial and bravery which found its expression in the late war could never have been born save in the elevating surroundings of family life.

Equality Before the Law.

But it is just because I am a firm believer in the sanctity of home that I am all in favour of woman being able, as well as man, to free herself from hateful surroundings when that sanctity has been sullied or defiled. What the motherhood of Britain means to this land of ours was revealed in the years of Armageddon in the splendid sacrifice of our sons, but, above all, in their solicitude for the old folk left behind. A wife is mother and helpmeet, not "chattel"—not a mere piece of property for which a man can claim a monetary value. The very word is an offence—it must be expunged from the Statute Book. Women—the humblest of them—have a right now to claim a share in the better and brighter times that men are rightly striving to secure. *She* cannot strike for an eight-hour day—*her* "wages," in these times of cruel prices, have not increased. But she can, here and now, demand that the taint of slavery shall be removed from our laws. Those laws are supposed to interpret the temper of the people; and it is alien to our modern spirit, and repugnant to our feelings of admiration for our womenfolk, that they should any longer be considered as the mere property of man. The women have justified their right to equality; let us give it them, not grudgingly but in the letter of the law, as well as in the spirit of the national conscience.

WHOSE NEGLECT?

AGED LODGER HAS A SHOCKING EXPERIENCE.

Picture the scene, if you can, of two old men living together in a single room in the Regent's Park district: one is taken seriously ill, and before assistance can reach him collapses on the floor and dies. It is a "Coroner's job," of course, so the body must not be moved. The doctor gives a passing thought to the other poor old chap. "Where are you going to sleep?" he asks. The answer is simple. He has nowhere else to go. So they leave it at that, and the survivor passes the night in the company of the corpse, which must on no account be moved until the Coroner's Officer has made the necessary arrangements for the inquest, even though a poor old man, a fellow-lodger, had to sleep in the room, with cats crawling in and out over the lifeless body. Nor does the officer hurry himself. It was just after 11 o'clock in the morning when the old man died, and the Coroner's officer did not put in an appearance until 6 o'clock the following evening, so that for the space of 30 hours the surviving lodger, unable to leave his humble abode, had to endure the gruesome contact of the dead. Another lodger in the house—who was, in fact, the first to find the dying man—was fully determined to bring these facts to the knowledge of the Coroner, but for some mysterious reason he was not called as a witness at the inquest. The police and the doctor, we are told, were surprised at his non-appearance. Was the Coroner's Officer also surprised?

A BULLY FINED.

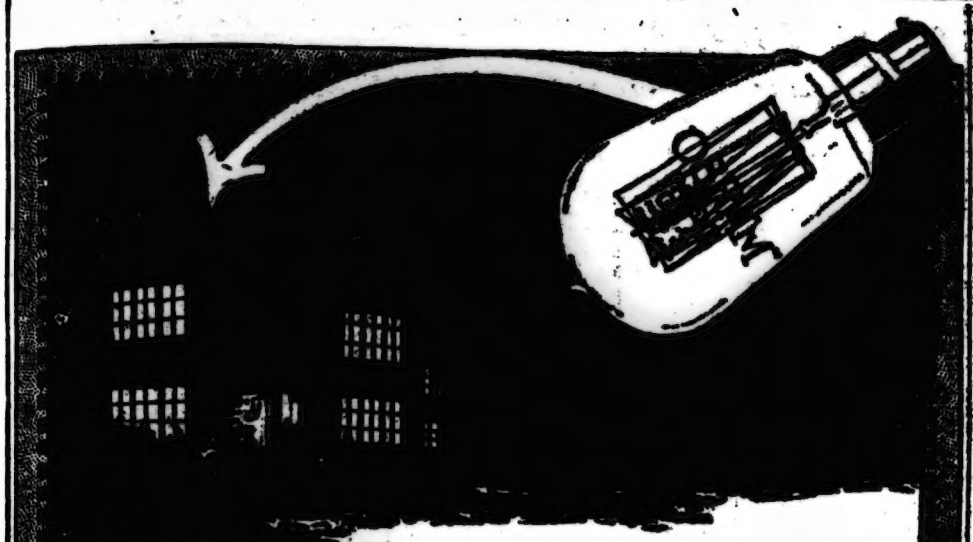
SAVAGE ATTACK ON HALF-WITTED SERVANT GIRL.

At the St. Asaph Police Court the other day, Mr. R. E. Birch—ominous name for a Magistrate—in the chair, a Rhuddlan resident named J. P. Davies was charged with ill-treating a half-witted girl employed by him as a domestic servant. The statement of the prosecution was that "while the woman was at work in the yard, the defendant beat her unmercifully with a cycle pump, her screams being such as to attract the attention of the neighbours." Denying these allegations, Davies had several awkward facts to dispose of. On her subsequent admission to the North Wales Asylum, the poor woman was still carrying the marks of her savage treatment; when taken away, it was stated, "both her eyes were blackened, her forehead was bruised, and the back of her head was tender." In answer to these damaging suggestions, Davies desired it to be understood that the imbecile woman had attacked his sister with a "dolly peg," whereupon he admitted using the bicycle pump in "self-defence," striking the woman with it "only once" after having "accidently caught her with it." The Magistrates, however, holding that "unnecessary violence" had been used, fined him £5 and costs. At the hearing it appeared that Davies had, in the course of the police inquiries, bestowed sundry odd half-crowns upon the officers engaged in the case, a circumstance which did not escape the notice of the Bench. Still, bribes and all, the bully got off cheap! Far less brutal behaviour has landed men in gaol before now.

SUCH A SHAME!

EX-SOLDIER WORRIED TO DEATH BY UNEMPLOYMENT

"It seems to have worried him because he was unable to get work," was the remark of the Leicester Coroner at an inquest on the body of Walter Kirk, an ex-soldier, who had hanged himself at Aylestone. Poor fellow!—no doubt it had worried him. Here is the mother-in-law's account of his career, as given to the Coroner. "He joined the Army in May, 1917, and worked in a factory in France at his own trade. He had an accident, and was sent to a London hospital. Discharged three months ago, he was unable to get work. Formerly he was in the employ of Messrs. Storey, sewing cotton manufacturers, of Leicester. He applied to them for work, and was told they could not start him for a time. He had worked for them for 20 years, and that he was not taken on again seemed to have worried him a good deal. His wife had been ill and that had worried him too. He had been depressed at times." Moved by this poignant tale of an ex-soldier's anxiety and suffering, the Coroner turned to the representative of Messrs. Storey, Ltd., the man's old employers, in whose service the best years of his life had been spent, but they had an excuse ready. There would have been "a vacancy" in the course of "another week or so" if only the poor fellow had had the courage to hold on a bit longer. "Couldn't you have taken him on at something?" asked the Coroner, and he added, "It seems such a shame after 20 years, you know." At that we will leave it. Such a shame!



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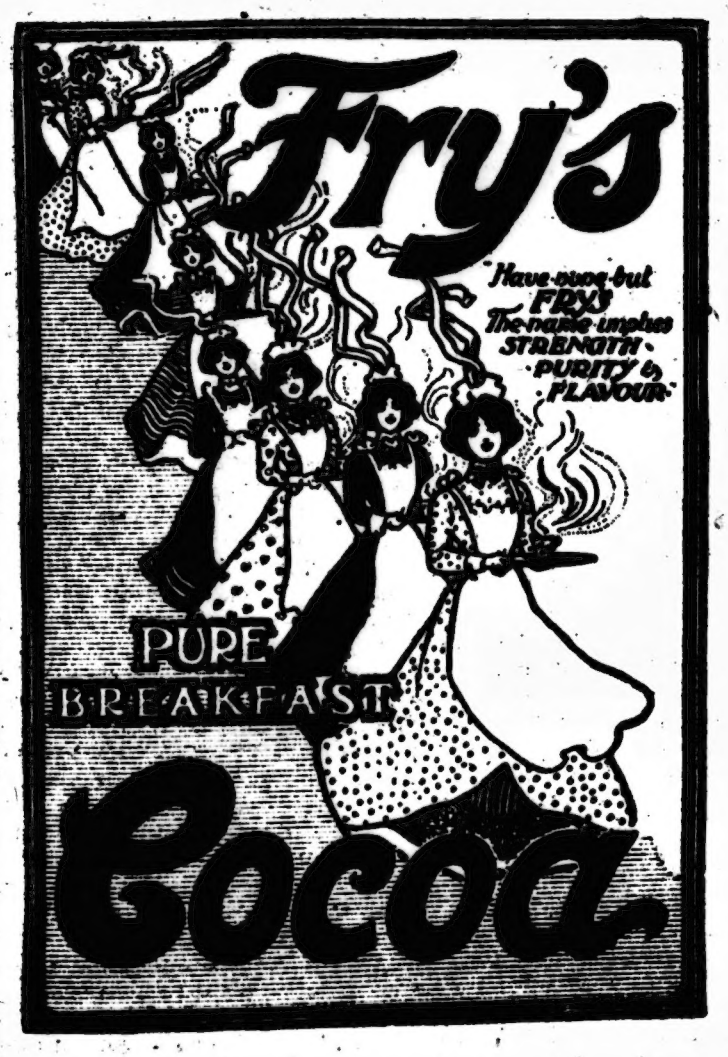

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This is happening every day. A trained Salesman can command almost any money. Men and Women are taken from one business to enter another at higher pay; trained Salesmen can sell anything.

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"Yet it's strange all these wonderful 'sites' we should see, But never the sight of a house!"

"THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT."

STUPID PROCEEDINGS AGAINST AN HONEST WOMAN.

Mrs. Sharpe, of Unstone is, we believe, as honest a woman as one can find. In her own words, she has never owed twopence, nor stolen twopence, but the Midland Railway accused her of something of the kind. She has worked hard in an aerodrome and, since, in business at Sheffield, her demobilised husband being partly unfit. One day in November, her train being in the station, she ran for it without taking a twopenny ticket in addition to the zone ticket she owned. She had the twopence in her hand ready for the ticket-examiner on the train, but he was arguing with another passenger and took no notice of her. When he returned to the carriage she tendered the money but it was refused, and again refused at the journey's end. A detective called at her home and at her place of employment, and she was summoned before the Bench at Dronfield. The Chairman decided to "give her the benefit of the doubt." But "there was a good deal of that sort of thing going on," so poor Mrs. Sharpe was condemned in costs—15s. sweated out of her because she had not committed an offence of which other persons are said to be guilty! Mrs. Sharpe's one desire is to clear her character of the odium of the case, and we have therefore recorded the actual facts. The visit of the detective to her place of employment was regrettable, and had the unfortunate result of seriously injuring the poor woman. We are glad to say that, as a rule, more discretion is exercised in such cases. The Dronfield Magistrates added a totally undeserved weight to the troubles of a struggling, hard-working woman, and she has our deepest sympathy. But she was "Not Guilty," and that will be her comfort.

A PERNICIOUS COUNCILLOR.

UNPATRIOTIC AND DISTASTEFUL BURDEN THAT BATTERSEA BEARS.

It is almost inconceivable that there should be seated on Battersea Borough Council a member capable of denying to the Boys' Naval Brigade the use of the museum and the gymnasium. Yet such is the case, and his name is the Rev. A. G. Prichard. His attitude is the outcome of his opinion that "We don't want to encourage the naval or military spirit." His opinion arises from the fact that he is a Conscientious Objector, who has brought up two sons in the same pernicious doctrine. But there is worse to follow. Not content with depriving a few Battersea boys of the use of the gymnasium for healthy exercise and recreation, he next resists a recommendation of the Finance Committee that "a record, in terms and in accordance with a design approved by them, of the raising of the 10th (Service) Battalion of 'The Queen's' (Royal West Surrey) Regiment (Battersea), be placed on the wall of the Council Chamber."

His reverence declares that he is "not in favour of any commemoration of the raising of the battalion," because, forsooth, he was one of the pusillanimous "objects" who opposed the regiment being raised. Neither he nor his sons had manhood enough to take up arms in defence of their country, their womenfolk, and threatened civilisation, so he would resist the erection of a permanent memorial to the gallant Battersea men who sprang to arms and helped to preserve unpunctured the shrinking skins of the Rev. Prichard and his pitiful sons. The "Reverend"! Who can feel reverence for such a man? The most insignificant "Tommy" who faced the German guns was a king compared with such a creature. How long will his presence on the Borough Council of Battersea be tolerated by the patriotic inhabitants?

DRUNKENNESS NO EXCUSE!

SCOTTISH SHERIFF STULTIFIES HIMSELF ON VEXED POINT OF LAW.

Without waiting for the reserved judgment in the House of Lords in the case of Rex *v.* Board, Mr. Sheriff Penney, of Dunoon, has given it to be understood that in his Court, at any rate, drunkenness is no excuse for crime. The point arose on the hearing of a charge of assault against one Patrick Mullan, a licensed broker of Dunoon, who, under the influence of liquor, had knocked the landlord of the "George Hotel" over the head with a revolver, brandished the weapon in the bar, and afterwards at the door of one Olindo Porchetta, a neighbour with whom, in the ordinary way, he was on peaceable, if not friendly, terms. In vain did Mullan's advocate plead that it was the drink that did it. Sheriff Penney would have none of it. "By the Law of Scotland," he solemnly declared, "drunkenness was no excuse." At this point we imagine the defendant must have expected to feel in his luckless person the extremest rigours of the law, the Sheriff going out of his way to declare that the assault was "the most serious he had ever had to deal with in that Court." But he need not have worried. At the finish there was a fine of £15.

But why this excessive leniency? Because of his "good character," said the Sheriff. But had he never been convicted before? Oh, yes, four times, for various breaches of the peace, but each time, as the evidence showed, he was as drunk as David's sow. Consequently, these little outbursts did not affect his general character although, as Sheriff Penney will go to the stake to witness, "drunkenness is no excuse." All considered, therefore, it works out at £15, and no gaol, for the "worst assault ever heard" in the Dunoon Sheriff Court. "Logic, thy home is Scotland!"

Godfrey Phillips'

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THE PEOPLE'S PULPIT.

The readers of "JOHN BULL" discuss matters of Public Interest.

In giving publicity on this page to views of correspondents, preference will be accorded to brief letters bearing name and address for publication.

All envelopes and letters must be marked "P.P." in left-hand corner.

Letters for this page must relate to public, as distinguished from personal, topics.

For short acknowledgments of communications and replies to other letters—selected from our general mail—see "Letter Bag," pages 22 and 23.

U. S. A.'s Aliens Tax.

In the United States a law came into effect on March 1st, 1919, whereby all workers other than American citizens have ten per cent. of their earnings deducted as War Tax. Consequently thousands of Canadians and British-born have crossed the border into Canada. What is Great Britain doing in this direction?—HOWARD P. EVANS, Windsor St. Station, Montreal, Canada.

"Suits of Woe."

The custom of going into mourning for relatives often causes unnecessary hardship to poor people, as proved a few days ago by a woman applying for a grant from the local poor-box to buy black clothes. This is a custom that could very well be done away with, without any disrespect to the dead, for there are very few of us who would care to think that we might cause our relatives or friends suffering through this so-called "respect."—F. V. PYLE, Albany Road, Sittingbourne.

Copper Shortage.

Now that there is a great shortage of copper coins, could not the various Corporations or Companies be induced to make metal discs to replace the copper which is lying in gas-meters for weeks at a time, and is very much needed by banks and shopkeepers? The name of the Corporation or Company could be stamped on the discs to prevent spurious ones being used, and the collectors could clear the meters as usual and re-sell the discs to the housekeeper for the equivalent cash.—HARRY PRIEST, Manchester Road, Huddersfield.

Underground "Hustling."

Those responsible for the District and Metropolitan train-loading arrangements could prevent a lot of confusion if they insisted that passengers leave the cars by the centre doors only—originally provided for that purpose—freeing the two end doors of each coach for incoming travellers. Thus people could enter and leave the trains at the same time, and effect a much less complicated speeding up than the present system. The "Tube" carriage could easily be fitted with similar centre-door exits.—J. WILLIAMS, Hulley Street, Stepney.

Warn the Children.

We read with horror the increasing outrage and murder of little school-children after being decoyed away. In many cases they are victims of men who have temporarily lost their reason through the hardships of war. If the school teachers gave an impressive lesson of warning to the little mites, telling them they must not take sweets or toys or money from strange men, and never go anywhere with such men, it would put them on their guard. They are more impressed by teachers' warnings than any other.—R. TINNERMANS, Marine House, Dover.

Politicians' War Medals.

The majority of people, particularly ex-Service men, will agree that His Majesty has been ill-advised in awarding the 1914-15 Star, the British War and the Allied Victory Medals, to the Premier and Mr. Asquith. While appreciating the efforts of Mr. Lloyd George during the war, we cannot say the same of Mr. Asquith with his "Wait and See" policy and its detrimental results. Military awards should not be given to civilians, especially when they are denied to London Defence men, men who were stationed on the East Coast, and the merchant seamen who did such splendid war service.—THOMAS BAXENDALE, Osborne Street, Preston.

The Independent Elector.

The unorthodox but absolutely sensible method of selecting Mr. Charles Palmer as Independent Candidate for the Wrekin Division will perhaps open the eyes of the community to the scandal which now characterises the methods of selection of most parliamentary candidates. The present practice is ostensibly democratic in principle, but really nothing of the kind. The selection is made by a very small section of the electors in the guise of a Party organisation. The elector of independent mind (a species daily increasing) who is debarred on principle from joining any Party association, has no voice in the selection, and has either to refrain from voting or to vote for one of two, or three, candidates with none of whose views is he entirely in accord.—MATTHEW H. HOAD, Tressillian Road, Brockley.

Five Guineas is paid to the writer of the most interesting letter. That amount has been sent to Mr. Hencher.

The Black Button.

As a mark of respect and in memory of comrades who fell in the Great War, all Service men should wear one black button on their uniform. The Navy men—who to this day wear a black neckerchief in memory of Nelson—might have a black braid upon their collar.—E. PEARSE, Aylestone Rd., Leicester.

"End of the Term" Drawback.

Under the new Education Bill scholars cannot leave school until the end of term—that is to say, they are leaving in "flocks," which makes it impossible for industry to absorb them all at once, with the disastrous result that many will be running the streets for months, and drifting into crime. This should be remedied without delay.—GEO. W. TALBOT, Clensmore, Kidderminster.

Cup Ties.

Apropos of the recent English Cup matches, the practice should be done away with of a club "drawn away from home" buying the right to play the tie on its own ground. Every year there are instances of a rich club drawn away against a poorer one offering such a bribe. The popular, and no doubt right, idea is that a club playing on its own "dunghill" is a goal better off than its opponent, and the time has now come when all sportsmen would like that practice stopped. It savours too much of buying matches.—PERCY HENCHER, Isle of Grain, Kent.

S.O.S. Police Calls.

As a measure of precaution, I would suggest that all Post Offices and Banks be in telephonic communication with the nearest Police Station for *S.O.S.* calls only, by means of push-buttons, two or three placed in handy positions. The Police Officers would then act immediately, knowing the call was urgent, carrying revolvers.—BARWARD F. CHAPPELL, Murray Place, Stirling.

Life-Saving at Sea.

At our lifeboat stations we have usually one steamer (small) and a sailing boat. Cannot the Government utilise "demobbed submarine chasers," which are very fast craft, issuing one per station or port? This would be a great help to the brave crews; for they could have her "ready for action" and to the wreck in very short time; and many a risky journey would not be fruitless, besides making good use of a ship not much needed now for other work.—A. TETLOW, Rumney Road, Kirkdale, Liverpool.

Theatre Prices.

The public are being fleeced in every direction nowadays, and theatre proprietors are not immune from the charge of profiteering. "Early doors" are so much extra, and if you don't pay up the "extra" you may be turned away. Now it is "Holiday Prices," "Saturday Prices," and "Booking Fees" in addition. Seats that in pre-war days in some theatres were 6d. are now 1s. 8d., and "Standing Room Only" at that. If we can have standard boots, standard clothes, and controlled prices in food, why stop at amusements?—Miss RICHARDS, St. Leonard's Hill, Edinburgh.

"Safety" Match-Making.

It is time England followed the lead of all the other countries where match-making is a big industry, and prohibited the use of yellow phosphorus in the manufacture. Hundreds of people yearly suffer excruciating pain from necrosis, due entirely to the fumes of the yellow phosphorus. Red phosphorus, from which "safety" matches are manufactured, is not poisonous, and the people employed in the manufacture don't run any risk whatever of developing necrosis. Statistics show that the number of cases of necrosis is negligible in the countries where the use of yellow phosphorus is prohibited, but not so in this country.—JOHN BATTERSBY, Cumberland Street, Warrington.

British Butter.

The *National News* states that the Food Controller "can see no reason why, when it is decontrolled, fresh butter should exceed 4s. 6d. per lb." He would have stifled much outcry and bitter feeling had he rather expounded *any good reason* why butter should ever attain such an exorbitant figure.—THOMAS MCBRIDE, Skirving Street, Shawlands, Glasgow.

Waste Wood.

Seeing that so many forests and woods have been cut down for national requirement during the war, thus resulting in much scrap wood, etc., being left lying about apparently useless, it would be a boon and a blessing to the poor now, while coal is so scarce and dear, if they were given permission to clear all this waste wood away free of charge.—F. BARTON, Brayton Street, Workington.

Public House Reform.

Hours on Sunday mornings should be 11 till 1, enabling men to be home for dinner and saving hundreds of mothers and wives from keeping the meal hanging about. Also encourage publicans to serve drinks in the garden, weather permitting (as on the Continent), so that a man could take his wife and children there without having to enter the house.—ERNEST LEWIS, Pottery Road, Parkstone.

Telephone Extension.

Many firms and private individuals are applying in vain to the G.P.O. for telephone installations. The chief cause for delay is accounted for by the contract manager as lack of labour. There are many ex-soldiers wanting jobs who have passed G.P.O. telephone courses of instruction, and could therefore greatly assist if only the Government would make use of them.—W. T. WILSON, Stonor Road, W.

Chance for "Demobbed" Girls.

Now the W.A.A.C.s W R A.F.s and other war workers are demobilised, could not each Town Council enrol some of those who really want work, as daily assistants to over-worked mothers, something like the Welfare and Jubilee Nurses, coming for a short time night and morning? No one requires help more than the middle-class mother with a large family, in most cases unable to get a maid. If each Town Council would institute the plan I suggest, many mothers would enjoy better health.—(Mrs.) E. HOPKINS, Welles'ey Road, Gunnersbury.

A Boy's Best Friend.

Having been left with two boys during my husband's absence in France, doing his duty to King and Country, I wondered how I should manage them, being at the tiresome ages 13 and 14 years. I found the best way was to be a real chum and pal to them, joining in sports, games and encouraging hobbies, and not scolding at every little thing they said or did. It has worked famously, and I'm sure the boys of to-day would be better if their mothers would try to win their confidence. When once you have gained that, you have won all that matters.—(Mrs.) E. RACKLEY, Burghfield, Mortimer, Berks.

Tramcar and Traffic Tragedies.

Scarcely a day passes without people being knocked over, maimed, or killed by motors and other vehicles rushing past where the tramcars have stopped to allow their passengers to get off and on. An Act of Parliament should be passed making it compulsory for every vehicle, whether motor-driven or horse-drawn, to draw up and stop until all passengers were safely on or off the tramcars. In some towns this regulation is in force, but here, as in London, the present conditions are most dangerous, especially for disabled men, children and old people.—JOHN MCNAUGHTON Frederick Street, Edinburgh.

Railwaymen *v.* Farm Labourers.

It is obvious to the "man-in-the-street" that railwaymen have exaggerated ideas of the worth of their work, especially the many who cannot be classed as skilled men. Compare, say, a porter's work and wages with those of a farm labourer. Most of the latter's work is skilled; his wages here are 36s. 0d. per week, less 4d. insurance—"tips" are conspicuous by their absence—yet he still carries on! Railway employment is at once the less important and the better paying job of the two The adage remains good: "Those who do the least work get the most money."—CHAS. J. WEBB, Heacham, Norfolk.

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Beat the yolks of 4 eggs. Add a pinch of salt, 1 breakfast cup sugar, ½ cupful Libby's Milk (undiluted), 1 teaspoonful vanilla, and ½ teaspoonful lemon essence. Mix thoroughly, then add gradually 1½ cupfuls flour and 2 heaping teaspoonfuls baking powder mixed together. Stir in lightly the stiffly beaten whites of the eggs and bake in a moderate oven. This cake may be served with or without frosting. To frost, allow cake to cool, then coat with icing made with 2 cupfuls fine sugar, icing sugar if obtainable, ½ cupful Libby's Milk, and 2 teaspoonfuls vanilla, all beaten till smooth.

Such rich, tender cake as this will make your reputation as a cook! Use Libby's Milk in your cake recipe and you will immediately want its extra richness and delicacy in all the many milk dishes you are now serving.

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11

WHAT'S YOUR GA

The Cat out of the Bag—Banker's Shovel B

By THE E

THIS week, despite the great interest of the political situation at home, I want a word with our friend, Uncle Sam. While most people are looking to the East, endeavouring to pick up some sort of clue to the Government's mixed intentions towards Russia and the complex problems created by the progress of Bolshevism in Asia, I invite my readers to turn their eyes to the West, where we may witness one of the most amazing political complications of our time, worthy, as I contend, of the closest study by all who have at heart the safety and honour of Britain. We will begin, if you please, with the remarkable declaration of Admiral Sims, the distinguished officer in whose hands was placed the direction of the United States naval effort in the war with Germany, and who on account of certain allegations of "graft" against the Navy Department was recently called upon to give evidence before a Special Committee of the Senate. The gallant Admiral was "some" witness. Describing the instructions conveyed to him by the United States Government on the eve of his departure for Europe—while America was still a "neutral"—Admiral Sims told how he was warned not to allow the perfidious English to "pull wool over his eyes"; the United States Navy Department, he was told, would "as soon fight Great Britain as Germany," and in any case the Washington Government were in no mood "to pull the British chestnuts from the fire." Nice and friendly, wasn't it? Polite and civil talk between cousins! As was to be expected, Mr. Josephus Daniels, the Secretary of the Navy Department, has since bobbed up to say that *he* never gave or sanctioned any such "instructions"—almost hinting that Admiral Sims, the most popular of American naval officers, is the biggest liar since Ananias, and a disgrace to the memory of George Washington. But, if I may say so with respect, this explanation "won't wash." And I think I can supply the true one. Some years ago, while war between Great Britain and Germany was still regarded in official circles as a remote and unlikely event, this same Admiral Sims was a guest at our Lord Mayor's Banquet in London, where, in the course of a friendly speech, he used the following words:—"If the time ever comes when the British Empire is seriously menaced by an external enemy, it is my opinion that you can count upon every man, every dollar, and every drop of blood of your Kindred across the seas." Now, I do not for a moment suggest that in this remarkable utterance the American Admiral was trying to "pull wool over our eyes"; this was his "opinion," and he stated it with courage and candour. And, of course, Washington was delighted with the speech, so calculated to cement good relations between the two great English-speaking nations. Was it, though? Do you know what happened? I will tell you. The outspoken Admiral was severely reprimanded by President Taft, and from that day forward was a marked man, branded as an Anglophile—a lover of Britain! So when, years later, at the height of the German submarine menace, he was sent over to England to confer with the British Naval authorities, he had to be solemnly warned, his "instruction" being conveyed in terms as hostile as if we had been at war with America instead of with Germany. In these circumstances, Mr. Josephus Daniels' bold disclaimer carries no conviction. Personally, I do not believe that Admiral Sims is telling lies, and, to put the matter quite shortly, if the glib apologists for this first-rate diplomatic blunder do not like my saying so, they can "do the other thing."

Perfidious America.

For, not to put too fine a point upon it, I am "fed up" with Uncle Sam. The time has come for plain speaking and I will be no party to the "mustn't mention it" policy adopted by most of the Fleet Street writers with reference to the sentiments of the American people and their attitude towards Great Britain. I see no reason whatever why we should flatter the vanity of this hustling race by lauding to the skies their part in the war, hailing the American President as the genius of world-politics, and pretending to discover at Washington virtues that are absent from every European capital. If we are to consider America's part in the war, we will consider it, if you please, as a whole, and begin at the beginning. What was the attitude of the United States Government, of President Wilson and his white-souled colleagues—indeed, of the whole American people, with trifling exceptions—when the German Emperor struck his caitiff blow at the independence and integrity of Belgium? What was their policy when this gallant little country flowed with the blood of the innocent, when her women and children were ruthlessly put to the sword, when, in the first bitter hours of her long martyrdom, foul crime and brutal outrage cried to all just men for vengeance? I say deliberately that the shame of America's inaction in that fatal hour of her silence, when the whole fabric of civilisation was assailed—of her failure to utter so much as a single collective protest against crimes of the blackest kind—will stand for ever as a monument of infamy before which, for centuries to come, every decent American should hang his head in shame. In that critical hour the rulers of America deliberately chose the policy which, to its lasting shame, an English newspaper—the *Daily News*—urged upon the British Government. They determined to stand aside from the conflict and "trade with the belligerents"; to forgo the glory and collect the gold; to eschew martyrdom in a sacred cause and fasten their hold upon the world's markets. They ignored the spiritual challenge, and seized the material opportunity. The men with the muck-rakes carried the day. Then was the opportunity for America, if she had chosen, to assume the moral leadership of the nations. If—with none of her interests immediately threatened, with no axe to grind, no gain to hope for and no material peril of any sort to avert—she had boldly taken her stand on the side of Truth and Justice, determining to fling her sword, or even the full weight of her moral influence, into the scale of Right, then we might have respected her claim to be regarded as a white-robed harbinger of Purity and Light. But no; while the United States Government proclaimed its "neutrality" in the struggle between Liberty and Despotism, every factory and arsenal hummed with activity, so that her coffers swelled to bursting with the gold of the Allies. Then at last, when the direct challenge to her security implied in the submarine policy of Germany left her no choice, she flew to the aid of the Victors. What sort of a record is this, I ask, to set by the side of the noble fortitude of Britain, of Italy's spirited adventure, of the sturdy friendship of Japan, or of the superb loyalty and stout-hearted gallantry of France?

The Cat Out of the Bag.

Yet from a million lips and in a thousand news-sheets, from Texas to the Canadian border and from New York to the Rockies, men hear and read the lie that "America won the war." Is this friendship? Is it even common honesty? Is it straight, or fair, or decent? Does it point to a "union of hearts" between the two great English-speaking democracies? Still, not a word of protest or disclaimer comes from Washington. While America declines to ratify the Peace Treaty, refusing to honour the obligations of peace as she hesitated to share the burden of war, the following is a sample of the kind of political pabulum that is served up to the readers of leading United States newspapers every morning of their lives—"We are quite able to defend ourselves, our land, our sovereignty and our place in the sun if we do not permit our solidarity and our natural relations with the other peoples of the world to be broken down by British propaganda. We have no reason to fear British ambition, British arms or British sea-power, if we successfully resist British propaganda and British intrigue." And here is another choice sample of sweet and brotherly affection, culled, like the first, from the emanations of the Hearst combine of newspapers which owns the *New York American* and other prominent American journals: "I have just faith enough and confidence enough in my own American people," says the writer, "to believe that we can lick England and Japan both together whenever they start trouble. I know very well that it would be a tremendous and frightful struggle, and that when it was over we should be burdened with such a mountain of debt and should have paid such a price in lives, as was never

GAME, AMERICA?

Before Bayonet—Why Palmer is Winning.

EDITOR.

known before in the history of the world. But I am also confident that the British Empire and the Japanese Empire would be broken in pieces, beyond any hope of future repair." These are not isolated examples; I could go on quoting by the yard from American newspapers that find their way to this office, and from the letters of British residents in the United States who are becoming seriously alarmed. And, you see, by an unfortunate coincidence, this "epidemic" of anti-British rancour coincides with the refusal of the United States Senate to ratify the League of Nations Covenant, which is supposed to preserve the peace of the world, and with the decision of Mr. As-Soon-Fight-England Daniels and his Navy Department, warmly approved by Congress, to embark on warship-building programmes that are to "stagger creation." Poor Mr. Wilson! Really I am growing quite sorry for him. You have noticed, of course, that following the provision in the Peace Treaty, he has had to send out invitations to the first meetings of the League of Nations Council, which, although he himself invented it, neither the President nor any other representative of the United States is at liberty to attend, owing to the refusal of the American Senate to take part in the wonderful scheme. The spectacle is one for the laughter of men and angels. But, as I say, I am sorry for Wilson, whose knowledge of his own countrymen must have been about on a par with my own understanding of the psychology of the Fiji Islanders. What a game, to be sure!

Is America Our Friend?

Now, I do not propose to retaliate in kind upon the American "jingoes" who are doing their best to wreck the hopes of a good understanding between the United States and Great Britain. I should not dream, for instance, of boasting that we on this side of the water are quite able to defend ourselves, our land, our sovereignty, and our place in the sun "against an American attack," or that we "have no reason to fear" American ambition, American arms, or American sea-power, "if we successfully resist" American propaganda and American intrigue. But I do earnestly suggest that we should be on our guard against Yankee bluff, and that we should not, in Mr. Daniels' phrase, allow Uncle Sam to "pull wool over our eyes." I do not want to talk in the Hearst vein about "licking America" or seeing the United States "broken in pieces, beyond any hope of future repair"; but I do very earnestly ask, "*Is* America our friend?" Because if not we had better know it, and we can make our plans accordingly. Like individuals, nations who mistake foes for friends are apt to come a bad cropper, and we in this country have had enough trouble to last us for a bit without blundering into fresh difficulties. As regards the past, I decline for any specious reason to trifle with the truth as I see it. When I read in a pamphlet published in New York and circulated broadcast throughout the American Continent, that "the United States saved the British from a good licking, and they hate to hear about it," I have no hesitation in branding this statement as an infamous lie, whose calculated purpose is to embitter the relations of the two countries, and to hinder the American Government from discharging its explicit pledges under the Peace Treaty. The truth is that, throughout the first three years of the struggle with Germany, America waited to see which way the fortunes of war inclined, so as finally to come in on the winning side. Let nothing, I say, be construed as implying a want of respect for the gallant American troops, who in the closing stages of the war made common cause with our own brave fellows on the stricken fields of France. I am talking not of soldiers, but of politicians, and I am as certain as I am of history's verdict upon Britain's noble effort in the war, that before the judgment bar of posterity the figures that strutted so largely upon the stage at Washington—even that of Woodrow Wilson himself, with his elaborate posing at Versailles—will be dwarfed into insignificance by the side of the French Clemenceau and our own Lloyd George. In England and France it may be said with substantial truth that the Hour produced the Man; in America they had to make do with a few pygmies and a Professor. But that pitiful tragedy is past. Is there another brewing? Is the stature of Josephus Daniels, with his reckless statements and hasty denials, to be the measure for American statesmanship? Are we to have more "revelations" like those of Admiral Sims, showing that the madness of international hatred has taken root at Washington, fouling the very nest of Wilson's precious League of Nations, and evincing to the world the hollowness and pedantry of the "high-falutin" sentiments that passed muster at Versailles? In short, are the Yankees playing a straight game, or are they—I can think of no better phrase—seeking to "pull the wool over our eyes"? And, also, I should like to know who is in control at Washington. Is it Wilson, of the high ideals, or is it a knot of fire-eating jingoes?

Banker's Shovel Before Bayonet.

I am afraid Admiral Sims must have had some bitter moments during the war if he really meant all he said at that Lord Mayor's Banquet. You remember the words. If ever Great Britain was "seriously menaced by an external enemy," we might count "upon every man and every dollar" from across the water. Well, it didn't come off, did it? When it came to the point, the dollars got in the way of the men. The Banker's shovel came handier than the bayonet. Still, I know that the Admiral sincerely meant what he said, and I know too that there are a considerable number of Americans who entertain the friendliest feelings towards this country. Well, it is time they made their voices heard. They should do their share of the shouting, and not leave it all to the people who want to see us "broken in pieces" and "licked" into subservience to the Hearsts and the Daniels and other loud-mouthed desperadoes. And as long as the United States Government owns the authority of President Wilson, its influence should be exercised in the direction of peace and amity between two great nations upon whose shoulders rests the major burden of the world's destiny. Take this latest episode. It should be a simple matter to try the issue of truth as between Admiral Sims and Mr. Josephus Daniels; and if it should be found that the Secretary for the Navy so far abused his authority at a critical stage of the war as to indulge in wanton insults to a friendly Power, he should receive his *congé* at the hands of the President without an hour's delay. And in the same way with the campaign of scurrility in the Hearst journals and other organs of the American Press. If an English newspaper were talking of "breaking in pieces" the American Republic, and if this jingo folly were re-echoed in scores of pamphlets, journals and magazines, it would be the duty of the Government to disavow sentiments fraught with the gravest peril to the peace of the world.

Why Palmer is Winning.

I know that some people—especially the professional politicians—will take me seriously to task for this article. But that fact leaves me quite cold. I am convinced that the British people are to-day in no mood for further fooling. The refusal of America to ratify the Treaty, the practical collapse of the League of Nations, the Kaiser-trial farce, the failure of the Labour Party in the House of Commons—all of which developments I have persistently predicted—have put the finishing touches to the suspicion and disgust which have long been brewing in the public mind. What is to-day wanted is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. We know now that we shall get no real Indemnity, that the Kaiser will never be properly punished, that the alien will soon be back amongst us, that Mr. Wilson's high ideals were mere bluff, that our pledges to the fighting men were not much better, that the Coalition Government is a "wash-out," and that unless we are careful we shall find ourselves for years to come burdened with an almost unbearable weight of debt, incurred for the benefit of Europe and America more than of Britain—and, above all, that unless we are on the alert the politicians will soon be at their old game, waging their sham fights under the moth-eaten Party banners. These are the things which I am talking about to the electors of the Wrekin Division of Shropshire—*and that is why Palmer is winning!*

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

MR. ASQUITH.

Good mornin', sir. 'Aven't seen you for *hages*! Not since you was turned down at the last election an'-went in for greater ease an' less responsibility, as some famous bloke sed once. 'Ow are yer? You're lookin' merry an' bright; but I'm blest if I know wot for. . . . Oh, *becos you're bin adopted Liberal candidate for the Paisley election?* Don't know as *thet's* anythink to write 'ome to mother about. . . . Oh, you *received a unanimous call from the Liberal Association*, did you? I'm not so shore. I *see* it stated in the paper thet only 400 o' the 700 members o' the Paisley Liberal Association was present at the meetin' wot adopted you, and thet at first time of awsking you got 93 votes and a Mr. Watson, the Co'lition chap, 75 — so I don't see as there was very much "unanimous" about it. Any'ow, you've accepted, I understand; an' now I s'pose you've come to me to spruce you up before you go down to face the electors . . . I thort so. Well, I can crop your 'air an' dye it black or any ole colour; and if you want any other disguise I dessay I kin fix you up. . . . *Wot do I mean by disguise?* W'y, you don't mean to say you're goin' to stand as the old "Wait an' See" Asquith, the leader o' the Old Gang, the politician wot's itchin' to re-introduce Party polertics, with all their rotten old defects, into the country once more? . . . You're *goin' to stand as you are, without any disguise wotever, and you're goin' to stand on your political record?* Well, you've got some pluck—thet's all I've gotter say. I'm afraid you'll 'ave the ex-Service men against you. Mark my words if you ain't 'eckled about "shell shortage" and other unpleasant odds and ends o' the early years o' the wore. . . . Oh, *you kin stand all thet*, can you? All right. You know best. 'Oo's goin' down to 'elp you? . . . You *'ope to 'ave Sir John Simon?* Wot? John Simon, wot deserted yer over military service? You're takin' risks, Mister, if you 'ave 'im along with you. 'E'll bring you bad luck, if you don't look out. Well, you watch the Labour candidate, old Biggar. Thet's the man 'oo'll run you close, and that Co'lition chap shouldn't be forgotten. An' thank yore lucky stars you won't 'ave a Business candidate in the field. I s'pose you reckoned on Mr. Charles Palmer bein' engaged elsew'ere. If 'e wasn't busy in Wrekin 'e might 'ave dished you in Paisley. Now, speakin' man to man, are you standin' jest becos you want to git back to the 'Ouse, or becos you think yore presence there is necessary for the welfare o' the country? I don't suppose fur one moment you're out simply for the four 'undred a yer, but you may be *h*actuated by *h*ambition. Minjer, I don't say as you're not a *h*ornament to the 'Ouse o' Commons w'en you're in it. There ain't no denyin' that you've got the style, an' the gift o' the gab. But thet ain't all we want. If we're goin' to make this a new country fit for 'eroes to live in, we want the right men for the job, not as I wouldn't say that wot you wouldn't be useful if you reely want to 'elp. We don't want men wot'er out to restore the bad ole days o' Party squabblin', men wot thought more about catchin' votes then workin' for the good o' the boys. We don't want men wot'er pledged to worn-out old theories. We want real live men wot kin see the needs o' the moment and chuck all this Party rot. . . . Oh, *you* think you can see the needs o' the moment, do you? Well, sir, with all due respec', I 'ope you can. You've 'ad plenty of time to think abart it, and all I've got to say is that if you do go back to the ole shop we look to you to 'elp and not to 'inder the little Welshman till he's finished his job. No doubt if they're shore you'll do this the electors will give you another charnce. . . . Thank you kindly, I'm shore. Goo'-day, sir. . . .

PRINTER'S PIE.

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of each item published under this heading. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"DAILY MAIL":—"These (articles) were taken by the assailant, and also a GOLD NECKLACE FROM WHICH WERE HANGING ON SMALL GOLD CHAINS TWO SMALL SUIT-CASES."

"DALTON GUARDIAN":—"The soldiers had overstayed their Christmas leave, and ——'s excuse was that HIS UNCLE WAS BEING CLEANED AND HIS TROUSERS BEING REPAIRED."

"EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS":—"The Railway Settlement . . . An increase of 2s. 6d. is . . . given to BOYS AND GIRLS UNDER 68 YEARS OF AGE."

"LIVERPOOL ECHO" (advertisement):—"Office Boy, experienced . . . QUICK AT WAGES."

"ARGUS" (Port of Spain, Trinidad):—"The gallant King of Italy is . . . by far the most diminutive of kings, for he stands only 2 FT. 2 IN."

"NORTHERN ECHO":—"(He) was stated to have KICKED THEM WITH A POKER."

"DAILY CHRONICLE" (advertisement):—"Doorman (Good), TO TAKE FIRE WHEN REQUIRED."

"BOY'S CINEMA":—"ALL SIDES OF A CIRCLE ARE EQUAL."

"HANDY STORIES":—"He held out a HEARTY HAND, and SHE GAVE HIM HER EYES."

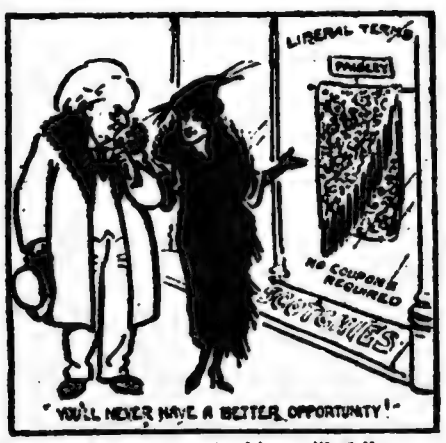
"ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY HERALD":—"—— remembered being at Tournai . . . but whether he was wounded, gassed, or KILLED he could not remember."

"YORKSHIRE POST" (advertisement):—"Wanted, NURSERY GOVERNESS, for mornings . . . good opening for ENERGETIC YOUNG MAN; PREFERENCE GIVEN TO ONE HAVING PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF STEEL TRADE."

"CORK EXAMINER" (advertisement):—"Required —A housekeeper, to COOK and attend A SINGLE GENTLEMAN."

"BELFAST TELEGRAPH" (advertisement of football match):—"Admission—Reserved, 1s. 6d.; Unreserved, 4s."

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.



Asquith believes to him will fall
The Party-coloured Paisley shawl—

While Palmer's pretty sure that he
Will win the Wrekin victory.

A man immaculately dressed
Once more is found a social pest.

Instead of thieves and cut-throats trapping,
These foolish "bobbies" were caught "napping."

Some think that films depicting crimes
Cause youths to act the same at times.

While murderers rage throughout the land,
On trivial duty coppers stand.

Into the light of day *John Bull*
Wool profiteering means to pull.

Will Lloyd George mount the latest steed—
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Player's Gold Leaf Navy Cut Cigarettes	Player's Medium Navy Cut Cigarettes
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doesn't apply to tyres, because the greater the mileage obtained the less trouble and expense is involved.

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ARTHUR HENRI, Secretary.

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LOUNGE SUIT 84/-

OVERCOAT 75/-

In fine Grey or Brown Cheviots, Tweeds and Worsteds.

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Delivered in 7 Days.

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The NATIONAL NEWS takes national views—every Sunday.

JOHN BULL AT PLAY.

RACING, FOOTBALL, BOXING AND OTHER SPORTING NOTES.

RACING.

A suggestion has been put forward from time to time that local stewardship at race meetings could be better performed if the duties were entrusted to others than the great unpaid. The stipendiary steward is, I think, an idea of Colonial origin. The innovation was no doubt suited to the manners of certain of the actors in the play, and if what one heard in the not dim and distant past of the weathercock changes of form of racehorses in South Africa were true, Argus, His Satanic Majesty, and Dick Deadeye, combined, would have been at 100 to 3 offered so far as detecting shady work was concerned. At the Cape, whenever business was artfully conceived it was heartily achieved.

So far as home Turf affairs are concerned, we seem to live in a different atmosphere from that which obtains in the Colonies, and amateur stewardship, if that is the proper term to apply to it, seems to suit the popular taste, even though blemishes are here and there revealed. Supposing the notion of appointing stipendiary stewards fashioned itself to the extent of trying to find the qualified men. Only a few would be needed, but where are they coming from —those men of the keenest discernment, who can see a wrong'un on the course and who can smell "dead meat" in the market, and who are of inflexible determination? They seem to me as hard to find as desirable recruits to the ranks of the Jockey Club. There is a venerable saying to the effect that it is necessary to catch one's fish before one eats it, and the notion seems to prevail in places that stipendiary stewards and owners of business attainments entitled to become members of the Jockey Club just grow on the bushes. We agree, however, that it would be a desirable reform if local stewards could avail themselves of the services of a competent adviser of Hawkshaw-like instinct, who could ferret out any wrong-doing as to the manner born, leaving to others the matter of the infliction of suitable punishment. Some honorary stewards do need stiffening.

BOXING.

Goddard appears to be one of the lucky boxers in being so frequently fixed up as a "star-turn," as many men with equally good and even better records fail to get anything like the same amount of limelight. He has to tackle McGoorty at the Holborn Stadium in March, and it will require something better than he has previously shown to give him a chance against the American.

It was a mystery to us why McGoorty failed to beat Beckett at Olympia, for he put up a supremely skilful fight, and when it came to real boxing, was the cleverer man. Up to that fatal seventeenth round, he appeared to have a good chance on points, and it was surprising to see him caught napping. With McGoorty fit and well, it does not appear likely that Goddard will be able to circumvent Eddie's very telling left, which was the cause of Beckett's trouble.

There is a good deal of talk of another match between Beckett and "Bombardier" Wells; in fact, Wells seems more determined than ever to "right himself." He has been booked for a contest at the Holborn Stadium next month, where Tom Noble and Benny McNeill are to meet in a 20-round contest. Unless Tancy Lee should intervene, this will be for the feather-weight title.

The widest interest is being shown in Mr. A. G. Hales' quest of a British heavyweight champion on behalf of JOHN BULL. A Welsh paper declares that they put him on two men straight away. As no names are mentioned, we should be glad to receive more precise information.

BOXING—*(continued)*.

We are glad to note that not all the American Press is swallowed up with blind prejudice, and we congratulate the *Brooklyn Eagle* on its courageous stand for Jimmy Wilde, that journal stating that "there has been a determined and malicious attempt to belittle the Welsh visitor, and an explanation detailing the animus behind it would make most interesting reading." No wonder Jimmy was Wilde!

WEEK'S RACING SELECTIONS.

SANDOWN—THURSDAY.
Allies S'chase—THE FLY III.
Lonsdale Hurdle Race—*FURORE. If absent, SILVER BRIDGE.
Claremont Handicap—GORE'S SELECTED.

KEMPTON—FRIDAY.
Littleton S'chase—SOUTH LODGE.
Middlesex Hurdle Race—GORE'S SELECTED.
Paddock S'chase—DESMOND'S SONG.
Weybridge S'chase—MINSTREL PARK.

KEMPTON—SATURDAY.
Cranford S'chase—WAVYLACE.
Egham Hurdle Race—GLENBAY.
Kempton Park Hurdle—GORE'S SELECTED.

HOCKEY.

Sooner or later the Hockey Association will have to revise the system of International trial matches and take full control instead of leaving them to district control. Three of the "trials" for this season have fallen through, which is bad business and unfair to eligible and ambitious players. It has been suggested that future trials should consist of North *v.* South, with a geographical dividing line to embrace wide areas, South and West *v.* Midlands and East, and England *v.* The Rest. Meanwhile the various Divisions would be at liberty to arrange such inter-Divisional matches as they consider expedient, which, although not officially recognised as international trials, might give a chance to all promising talent.

Result of Football Competition No. 18.

Four of the sixteen matches played on January 17th were drawn, thus leaving twelve winning teams to select from. The following two competitors succeeded in naming ten, and the prize of £250 is therefore divided between them:—

J. Myers, 41, Worple Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

W. Newton, 20, Lee Street, Oldham.

Another £250 *must be won this week*. Fill up the free coupon on page iii. of cover.

ROWING.

Boat race practice so far suggests that there is little to choose between Oxford and Cambridge. As at present constituted, the crews contain eight old Etonians—four in each. At Cambridge rowing is so popular that the Cam has been uncomfortably crowded during practice.

BILLIARDS.

An amateur champion of the future seems to have been discovered in Mr. Dudley Fry, brother of the famous Sydney Fry, who made an auspicious début in his Amateur Championship heat with Mr. W. E. Foster. To record a three-figure break in his first big ordeal was proof of the right temperament, but he also revealed a most convincing measure of skill.

FOOTBALL.

On the score of national interest the Football authorities will have seriously to consider the expediency of prohibiting mid-week cup replays. Recently in manufacturing centres these have been a sore menace to the country's industries, owing to thousands of men preferring football to work. In one town loss in wages and output amounted to £60,000.

The Football League may complain of the dislocation of their programme if cup ties are re-played in mid-week, but seeing that the season now extends into May there should be ample scope for evening matches in the Spring. With production more than ever vital to the country's needs, the question is one of the utmost importance—and manufacturers are complaining bitterly, and not without cause.

If we had to hazard a guess at the results of Saturday's ties in the second round of the Cup, we should name the surviving clubs as follows: Birmingham, Liverpool, West Ham, Chelsea, Sunderland, Bradford, Aston Villa, Barnsley, Wolves, Preston, Manchester City, Middlesbrough, Arsenal, Sheffield United, Newcastle, and Tottenham Hotspur—which, of course, means the utter elimination of the Southern League representatives, whose main hope appears to rest in Plymouth Argyle forcing a draw with Barnsley. But what did Barnsley do to West Bromwich Albion?

The dear old ladies of the Rugby Union have a way of muddling things, but they fairly "confiscated the confectionery," otherwise they took the bun, when they withdrew W. M. Lowry from the England team against Wales, after this player had changed for the fray and appeared in the photographic group. If they didn't know before the eleventh hour that the ground was wet and the ball was likely to be greasy, they must have been asleep. And is there not a good deal of "cussedness" over this Hammett business? Eligible for England and Wales, both of whom had better men available, he was chosen by both. Such are the laxities of qualification that Scotland have now selected two Welshmen for their team. What a game!

LAWN TENNIS.

The British Isles defeat in the Davis Cup challenge round at Sydney was fully expected, but most assuredly the fiasco of the doubles match could have been avoided. Kingscote and Beamish were literally cut to pieces by Brookes and Patterson, but it was not their fault that we sent out three players from whom no sort of doubles pair, judged from the international class, could be formed.

If he could have gone, Max Woosman, who played so finely in doubles last season, most assuredly should. The selection of Beamish had obviously no justification whatever on any form he displayed last summer. Furthermore, Woosman is so large hearted a sportsman that at least he would have shown sufficient fighting spirit to have made something like a match of it.

The moral, of course, is that we shall have seriously to turn our attention to this question of doubles play, which so frequently has let us down. The Lawn Tennis Association will doubtless look to it that in future our home pairing is not so haphazard as in the past. The revival of the County championship may be the means of discovering likely pairs; but to go on with, we would venture the suggestion that Max Woosman and O. G. N. Turnbull be put into regular partnership next season. Both "have it there," and if Turnbull did not make good against France, allowance must be made for his first big occasion, and his unfamiliarity with hard courts.

The truth about Prohibition

Sir James Crichton Browne, M.D.

states that "The classification of alcohol as a poison cannot now be defended by any reasonable being, for alcohol is separated from the poisons by the cardinal fact that

Alcohol is a nutrient

which they are not. Arsenic, strychnine and prussic acid do not nourish the system, but alcohol does."

In the report of the Liquor Control Board (page 27) appears the following striking statement concerning alcohol:—

> **"The food value of alcohol, within limits, is no less than that of a corresponding quantity of sugar or lard . . . . "**

The testimony of such eminent authorities is sufficient to disprove the wild statements of the prohibitionists, whose principal argument is the non-utility of alcoholic beverages.

The Sportsman's Favourite.

TURF

BIG VIRGINIA CIGARETTES.

No need to ask why. The sportsman is always a critical connoisseur. He is used to judging comparative qualities. He smokes 'Turf' Cigarettes because he knows there is nothing else as good at the price.

TURF BIG. 20, 1/4 — TURF DERBY. 20, 1/2.

Of all Tobacconists.

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Amazing Offer of Men's and Boys' Suits, Trousers, Breeches & Knickers!

MADE FROM A NEWLY DISCOVERED UNTEARABLE HOLEPROOF CLOTH.

Would you like a Man's or Boy's Suit, Trousers, Knickers or Breeches absolutely free of charge?

A sensational but perfectly honest offer is being made to all those engaged in manual labour and those who appreciate cheap, hard-wearing clothing by one of the best-known Clothing houses in London of Gent's and Boys' clothing that will not tear — in fact, is Hole-proof, and is actually guaranteed to withstand the hardest of hard grinding wear-and-tear, every week-day, and Sundays, too, for at least six months at a price pounds less than the ordinary shoddy wear-out-in-week Suits at high prices!

This man discovered the cloth and personally guarantees the goods.

GARMENTS REPLACED FREE.

This remarkable cloth, although absolutely Holeproof and quite untearable, is exactly the same in appearance as the finest tweeds and serges. It cannot be torn by a barbed-wire fence, and no matter what your work, if you or your boys can wear the smallest hole, no matter how hard you wear the garments, every day in the week (not just Sundays), another garment will be given free.

The firm will send a written guarantee in every parcel stating, in plain English, that the garment will be replaced free if a hole appears in six months

AMAZINGLY LOW PRICES!

The prices are truly astonishing in these days of high prices. Men's complete Suits cost only 59s. 9d., Men's well-made Trousers 12s. 11d., or Breeches 20s. 11d. Boys' suits are supplied from 18/5 and knickers from 6/11. Look at these prices, readers, and at the same time remember that each garment is guaranteed for six months grinding wear-and-tear!

SAMPLES FREE TO READERS.

Send just a postcard to the Holeproof Clothing Company (Dept. J.B.), 56, Theobald's Road, London, W.C.1, for free samples, style book, and full instructions how to measure yourself easily and correctly at home. These are all absolutely free and postage paid.

WARNING.

If calling, look for the largest Clothing premises in Theobald's Road. Don't enter small shops in error.

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LEAHEY'S 6/6 WONDER

Will make yours always look like new with "stylish Crease."

NO MORE 'BAGGY' TROUSERS

NO man can look smart in "Baggy" Trousers. To-day every man can wear trousers that always "look like new"—with smart crease. No need to pay 25/- or 2 gns. for a heavy, cumbersome Trousers Press. Send only 6/6 (plus 6d. towards packing and carriage) and try the new improved Leahey's Combined Trouser Presser Creaser and Hanger. Light and portable. Weighs only 24ozs. Folds up to 16 by 14ins. for suit case, wardrobe, or cupboard, or hangs on hook, or over a chair at bedside. Lasts a lifetime. Trousers put in at night are nicely pressed and creased next morning. Helps to make any man look smart and well set up. Makes trousers last twice as long, too.

Smart. Slouchy.

Being made of highly compressed fibre board, it lasts a lifetime. Trousers can be put in or taken out in thirty seconds. A wonderful and useful invention for every man. Over 300,000 of these Wonderful Trousers Presses have already been sold. And there is no comparison between the appearance of the trousers as pressed in the old style presser and the new style. For Leahey's Presser **concentrates extra pressure on the making of a knife-edge crease down the front of the trousers.**

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One for 6/6 (plus 6d. packing and carriage). Two for 13/6, three for 19/6, carriage paid to your address. If you are not more than satisfied, your money will be immediately refunded in full. Order to-day.

Only 6/6

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300 ,,	Cyclists Pants, equal new	7/6 ,,
1,000	Khaki Overcoats	15/- to 20/- each.
10,000	Wool Shirts, various colours	6/- ,,
5,000	Wool Vests and Pants, knitted	6/- ,,
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All Woollen Hearthrug Tabs		3/- stone.
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"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheese-paring, shall go unchallenged or unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 10th August, 1916.

"TOMMY."

Airmen's Antics:—We have had trouble at the R.A.F. Camp at Halton. We gave the Authorities tips that might have prevented the "regrettable incident." We now give them further hints. There is dissatisfaction among the 113th Squadron at Ismalia, whilst we have a budget of complaints from the young ladies and others of the R.A.F. Records at Blandford. Will somebody put in the stitch in time?

At Long Last:—In the year 1914, when the bugles blared for war, our boys stored their properties, which were supposed to be looked after by honest men. But the forty thieves—or was it four thousand?—stole, and stole, and stole. Now, six years after, the Army Council has wakened up and told our dear old Contemptibles that they may make claims for the property of which they have been robbed while they were fighting. We wish the "rooked" ones luck.

Any Pardon?:—Before the War many men won the Good Conduct Medal—which takes ever so much more earning than the Victoria Cross—and lost it for very minor "crimes." We have a list of those distinguished men who forfeited the award and afterwards did deeds of derring-do in France and Flanders. We do not appeal to the official Secretary of State for War, but will His Majesty graciously have the coveted medals restored to his heroes?

Why Kept Back?:—The 62nd Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps were sent back from Germany in August to be demobilised. Why are half of them still at Catterick awaiting dispersal? Possibly they are held for the coming "big push"!

"JACK."

Why?—Some time ago an Order was sent around the fleets that men who wished to purchase their discharge could do so if they furnished proof that they would obtain employment on return to civilian life. Why has this compact not been generally carried out? Is it on account of the fresh effort we are making to preserve the oil wells at Baku and Batoum and keep the Bolshies back from the East?

Many Thanks:—Whitehall is now dishing up War Orders highly spiced with enthusiastic thanks to the bluejackets and "old shellbacks" who, by undergoing terrible privations and hardships, sent the Hun vessels to the bottom and prevented the square-head from kicking in our front door. Very many of the mine-sweepers patrol men have written to us appreciating the nice things said of them, but at the same time regretting the general treatment they received during the campaign, when they seemed to be the hard-working children of nobody. We are pleased with their expressions of appreciation of our work on their behalf—and goodness knows we did our best. Let us now say, by way of valediction, "Cheerio, Boys! You worked splendidly during the long months loaded with terrible dangers. If you ever have to go to sea again as a hostile force, may you and ourselves be once more associated."

To the Mediterraneans:—You will have a fine time out there, particularly at Baku and Batoum, where the oil shows are. You will, with our Allied pals, cut the Reds off from the East, and will have much fun, both with long range guns from the ships and Allied landing parties.

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of Discharged Sailors' and Soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or other information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

Towards the End:—Isn't it funny that our Departments have left it till the close of the war—or, at any rate, the end of the first lap—to do what they should have done years ago? The Ministry of Pensions have all along ordained that if a pensioner got behind prison bars his money would be cut off and his family thus suffer. Now, unless he is convicted for treason, his pension will be restored immediately upon his release from imprisonment, the probationary period of the Pensions Department ticket of leave being cut out. Also, while he is in jail the allowances to his wife and children will be continued. Why was this mere measure of justice so delayed?

We Must Inquire:—The Clitheroe Branch of the Comrades of the Great War ask us if the Pensions Ministry and the War Office have their waste paper baskets under their letter boxes. They say that they can get no replies from these Departments. We used to suffer in the very same way; but now—well, they have been gingered up.

"Live, Horse!":—What an employment famine there is—and what an army of disappointed ex-soldiers who want to get back to the Army, but are refused because they are marked by some letter and numeral that suggests physical unfitness! But live horse, and you may soon get grass—as our tip is that the recruiting sergeant will later on be going around seeking whom he may devour—even the weak-lunged, knock-kneed, and flat-footed.

Any More?:—His Majesty asked employers who grew fat through the war and are becoming fatter, to employ ex-soldiers. Out of the whole United Kingdom about 10,000 have fallen in. What have the rest of the "patriots" to say?

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

[The object of our Fund is to relieve (a) the dependents of our Soldiers and Sailors and (b) suffering amongst the people generally. No genuine appeal is ever refused, and although we see to it that adequate proof is presented in every case relieved, no harassing or degrading questions are put to applicants. Will you please help? We gladly defray all expenses of administration.]

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

Down and Out:—An ex-soldier without pension was worn out through looking for work. He asked only for a few shillings to purchase a small stock of newspapers for re-sale. We did something better for him.

All Alone:—A widow of 69 years is all alone and has no fixed income. She has been ill, and consequently incurred some debts, including a doctor's bill.

In Danger of the "Street":—A discharged man can obtain no work. He owed five weeks' rent and other debts, and was about to be evicted with his family.

At Rock Bottom:—An unfortunate fellow, who has a wife and two children to support, was medically rejected by the army. He is at present unfit for work, and the family was in a state of destitution when an appeal was made to us.

A Lost One:—The wife of a demobilised man lost a child, who was not insured. The man has the minimum pension, which would not keep a big dog decently in these days, though the family consists of four.

After Twelve Years: An ex-Tommy who put in twelve years' service, is now a civilian on the rocks with consumption. He cannot work, and has a wife who is ill. A black cloud rested over his humble home.

A Little Stranger:—Discharged and unemployed, one of our ex-soldiers had a wife and six children when, a few days ago, a stork visited the house with another. The cupboard was bare, and no preparations were possible for the reception of the little stranger until we were applied to.

SHALL THEY STARVE?

(A case typical of the many of distress and hardship which have been relieved by our Fund during the week.)

Once again, the case of an ex-Service man calls for sympathy and help. Being employed prior to his enlistment as a carman at Southend, a Camberwell man joined the Army in January, 1917, being released in May of last year, on account of special domestic hardship. Before his arrival home his wife, suffering from a complete breakdown, had been removed to the Coulsdon Hospital, and at a charge of 12s. weekly, payable by the father, the three children were cared for in the St. Giles's Poor Law Infirmary. From the date of the poor fellow's discharge from the Army, the case is simply a tragedy of unemployment—stark and unrelieved. Although he now has the children home again and a delicate wife to provide for, the ex-soldier has been unable to find a regular job—his casual earnings being quite inadequate to the support of the little home. Frequently there has been no more than one or two days' work a week, the result being that every domestic article of value, and even essential garments, has had to be pawned for bread. Added to these terrible hardships, doubly severe in view of his wife's feeble health, there is a serious risk that the poor furniture of the home may be reclaimed under a hire-purchase agreement—it having been impossible to keep up the payments—while one or two small insurance policies are in danger of lapsing from a similar cause. More than six weeks of miserable privation have passed since the withdrawal of the Unemployment Donation, which for an assigned period after the man's discharge from the Army offered a bare insurance against actual starvation. Reduced to this appalling level of poverty, with nothing but the proceeds of an occasional odd job to depend upon, it may be imagined with what gratitude this stricken family has received a timely grant from our "Greatest of These" Fund.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

E. B. (Seven Kings), 2s. 6d.; W. N. S., 2s. 6d.; W. J. B. (Aberdare), 2s. 6d.; "Peggy," 3s.; E. M. S. (Clifton), £1 1s.; "Mother" (Aberdeen), 2s.; J. E. S., 2s. 6d.; "Prick the Letter" (Plumstead), 10s.; A. H. (Lowestoft), 3s.; "Mary" (Bristol), 2s. 6d.; "One of Gen. Allenby's Halfbacks," 1s.; "Gordon and Edgar," 3s.; E. D. (Wimbledon), 3s.; "Ex-K.R.R." (Buntingford), 2s.; "An Old Age Pensioner," 2s.; "My Mite," 5s.; R. J. S. (Bristol), 2s. 6d.; "Kathleen Nancy," 1s.; S. J. C., 5s.; J. C. B. (Plymouth), 5d.; A. E. C., 2s. 6d.; "Anti Yank Bluff," £1; S. G. T. (Toronto), 5s.; E. E. M., 2s.; J. S. P. (Hull), 10s.; R. A. G. (East Ham), 2s. 6d.; "Ex-Indus," £3 10s.; W. A. (Hong Kong), 5s.; "Jack's Mother," 5s.; R. P. (Brecon), £1; C. G. F. (Addlestone), 2s.; Mrs. E. H. D. (Shirley), 1s.; "Elsie and May," (Rochdale), 2s. 6d.; T. W. (Rogerstone), 1s.; "Constant Reader, No. 8," 5s.; A. E. B., £2; T. L. B. (Carlisle), 2s. 6d.; S. W. T., 1s.; "In Memory of My Darling Husband" (Gt. Yarmouth), 3s.; T. B. (Hounslow), 4d.; T. Y. (Southend), 2s. 9d.; R. C. (Ipswich), 2s. 9d.; "Old Border Sergeant," 1s.; M. N., 10s.; "Deighton," 1s.; S. P. (Armley), 2s. 6d.; Anon. (Tunbridge Wells), 1s.; B. B. (Lewes), 1s.; C. I. M. I. (Helsby), 5s. 6d.; R. W. B., 6d.; M. E. K., 2s. 6d.; "W." £1; L. M. (Dalchreichart), 2s. 6d.; M. E. T. (Sheffield), 5s.; Anon., 2s.; M. B. (Bedford), 1s. 8d.; W. S. (Cadoxton), 2s. 6d.; Sapper N. A., 2s. 9d.; S. H., 2s. 9d.; R. R. W. (Catford), £20; "Cessio," 1s.; C. J. (Perth), 2s. 6d.; "Pat," 2s. 6d.; W. R. R., 2s.; "Fag," £1; C. C. (Hanley), 2s.; "Rafe" (Lochee), 5s.; "S. Ealing Reader," 2s.; H. J. M. (Littlehampton), 1s.; "A Regular Reader" (Beacon Hill), 2s. 6d.; "In Memory of Jack" (Hove), 2s.; H. M. F. (Belfast), 10s.; Mrs. D. McG., 2s.; "Dodo," 2s. 6d.; R. R. (Anshinlae), 2s. 6d.; W. F. W. (Islington), 2s.; R. E. B. (Gt. Yarmouth), 1s.; E. M., 1s.; "Punch," 10s.; F. R. (Crewe), 10s.; H. G. W. (Sheffield), 2s. 6d.; E. M. S. (Peterborough), 6s. 6d.; J. C. J. (Southport), 1s. 6d.; J. C. B. (Plymouth), 6d.; H. W. (Stratford-on-Avon), £1 1s.; H. K. (Leicester), 10d.; Sgt. F. J., 1s.; M. J. W., 6d.; A. W. N., 6d.; "Deighton," 1s.; J; A. (Sheffield), 2s. 6d.; K. E. T., 1s.; W. H. L., £1 1s.; A. J. W. (Headon), 2s. 6d.; W. P. (Felixstowe), 2s.; K. D. (Grantham), 1s. 6d.; C. C. S. (Norwich), 2s. 6d.; "Daggers," 2s. 6d.; I. H. & M., 5s.; J. D. (Kerrimuir), 1s.; "Constant Reader" (Lancashire), 1s.; Mrs. S. (Newport), 1s.; "Three Sympathisers," 15s.; Anon., 2s.; W. O. (Weston), 4s.; "One Tenth" (Lincoln), £3; "A Wellwisher" (Wembley Hill), 2s. 6d.; "A Scot," 10s.; "English," 10s.; Mrs. H. O. W. (Bagshot), 5s.; T. H. M. (Newport Pagnell), 2s.; W. P. (Coalbridge), 2s.; "Salopian," 2s. 6d.; "A Few Friends (from Battersea)" (per I. M.), £1; J. D., 1s.

THE ONLY CURE FOR ASTHMA & BRONCHITIS

PRESCRIBED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

THE GREATEST OF ENGLAND'S PHYSICIANS have used and prescribed Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure, and Doctors are everywhere prescribing it for their patients, acknowledging its sound principles and phenomenal success.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION'S approval and endorsement of Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure may be summarised by quoting the pronouncement of some of England's greatest Physicians. Notwithstanding the proper reserve of a great and responsible profession, reluctant to lend itself to hasty endorsement of unofficial treatment,

The Royal Physician, Sir Morell Mackenzie, had such experience of Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure as to justify his endorsement of it (as quoted under photograph).

PROFESSOR G. J. ALLMAN, M.D., F.R.S., L.L.D., Past-President of the Greatest Medical Society in the World, namely, the British Association, being a sufferer, himself used Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure with "marked success."

Dr. Hair, writing of his own sufferings, says:—"*For eleven years I suffered what I cannot describe, expecting death as the only relief. I tried everything I could hear of, with only partial relief. Finally, I came to adopt a theory of my own in regard to the nature of the disease. Selecting medicines and preventives on the basis of it, I found I was right, and soon I was entirely relieved, and have been free ever since.*"

As Dr. Hair also says, his treatment "**will enable the patient in two or three days to sleep in bed without suffering, and if the directions are followed, Health, Strength, and Flesh will be rapidly restored.**"

The Clergy, being less constrained to reserve by their professional tradition, express themselves more emphatically. The Rev. J. H. Bumstead, Vicar of Hambleton, says: "**Asthma can be cured and Dr. Hair's medicine will cure it.**" The Rev. J. Ll. Herbert, Rector of Disserth, Llandrindod, describes Dr. Hair's medicine as—"**An excellent cure without any ill-effects.**" Amongst countless others who have endorsed Dr. Hair's Treatment are—The wife of the

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GENERAL SIR HORACE S. ANDERSON, K.C.B.,
GENERAL SYKES,
GENERAL J. P. COODE,
GENERAL W. H. WHITLOCK,
GENERAL G. SMART,
COLONEL W. C. McDOUGALL,
LADY SARGENT,
LADY JULIA A. PERKINS,
LADY CHARLOTTE BERTIE,
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THE BARONESS NOLLI,
THE HON. MRS. M. E. BUTLER, etc., etc.

Theirs and the great testimony of numerous others, proving there is hope of permanent cure for all, is contained in **Dr. Hair's Free Treatise, post free.**

THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN

Photo [*London Stereoscopic Co.*

SIR MORELL MACKENZIE said:—"I have known many people benefited by using Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure."

The price of Dr. Hair's Asthma and Bronchitis Cure is 3s.; large size 5s.

Of BOOTS', TAYLOR'S, TIMOTHY WHITE'S and all Chemists.

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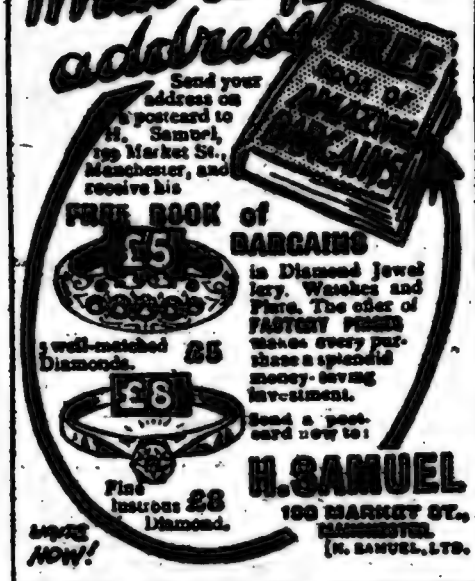

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Tints grey or faded hair any natural shade desired — brown, dark-brown, light-brown or black. It is permanent and washable, has no grease, and does not burn the hair. It is used by over three-quarters of a million people. A Medical Certificate accompanies each bottle. Of all Chemists, Stores, and Hairdressers, **2/6 the Flask**, or direct from HINDES Ltd., 1, Tabernacle Street, City, London.

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HAIR DESTROYER

In every way the MOST PERFECT and GENUINE CURE for SUPERFLUOUS HAIR yet discovered. New Method. NOT A DEPILATORY. A harmless fragrant liquid which slowly but surely eradicates any growth.

Post free, 10/6. Test sample 1/-

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15/- LEATHER WAISTCOATS
LINED WITH SILVER-GREY WOOL

For outdoor, winter wear these Waistcoats are ideal, combining absolute protection with perfect comfort. Each garment is guaranteed and has passed Government inspection. If made to-day would cost at least 25/- each. OUR PRICE, 15/-

Cash with Order (Money Back Guaranteed). Orders treated in strict rotation. All goods sent Carriage Paid.

Hundreds of other Bargains. Send for List.

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CHEAP is "SUNSHINE" SACCHARINE TABLETS.

Every tablet equal to two lumps of sugar. 1,000 tablets in dainty tin box sent by return, registered post free, on receipt of P.O.6/-; 5,000 at 5/10 per 1,000; 10,000 at 5/5 per 1,000.

WHY PAY 10d. PER 100? SATISFACTION ASSURED.

Sunshine Products (Dept. B.3.) Sharpleshall Street, London, N.W.3.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

FINANCIAL NOTES—AND ADVICE TO INVESTORS.

BY OUR CITY EDITOR.

All correspondence relating to financial matters should be addressed to the City Editor.

Each enquiry must bear name and address and be accompanied by a Postal Order for One Shilling.

New Exchequer Bonds.

I doubt whether the latest Government issue will make a wide appeal to the general body of investors. As a rule they dislike odd rates of interest, such as 5¼ per cent., which require far too much calculation on anything except even hundreds. The main object of the issue is to provide for maturing loans, of which some £210,000,000 falls due in the course of this year. It is understood that most of these bonds are held by banks and other big financial houses, and favourable terms of conversion are offered which will no doubt be largely accepted. No attempt, apparently, has been made to attract any considerable amount of new money, although with 1,400 millions of floating debt, some serious effort ought to have been made to reduce it.

Cunard Bonus.

Rumour has been busy with the affairs of this great shipping Company for some time past, and it is now announced that, mainly with the object of providing new tonnage, the shareholders will be offered 1,500,000 ordinary £1 shares at 10s. premium, in the proportion of one new share for every two held. This will add some £750,000 to the reserves, which will be a valuable offset to the present high cost of construction. As the shares are quoted round 3½, the new issue will provide a bonus of about 20s. per share, and that is not so bad.

Cinema Combine.

"I do not like thee, Dr. Fell. In this case, however, the reasons why are easily enough told. The Company is to acquire three picture houses—two near Clapham Junction and the third at East Sheen. For these the purchase price has been fixed at £70,500, payable in cash, and the Company also makes itself responsible for preliminary expenses estimated at £10,000. No independent valuation of the properties is furnished and there is no statement of past profits. All the public have to go on is a summary of gross receipts for one year, which may mean little or nothing—but it immediately suggests that the actual net profits are not sufficiently tempting to be disclosed. I should mention that the gross receipts are certified by one of the directors (not by an accountant), and that the estimate of profits, for what it is worth, is given by another. Decidedly it is not an attractive looking proposition.

BRITISH-AMERICAN TOBACCO CO.

This offshoot and associate of the Imperial Tobacco Co. does most of its business in North America and certain other foreign preserves, and how nobly it has prospered will be seen from the accompanying summary of the results for the three years ended September 30. In August last, about 2,250,000 ordinary £1 shares were issued at par to holders, in the proportion of one new for every three held, and the issued capital was thereby raised to £13,000,000.

Now it is proposed to increase the authorised capital from £14,500,000 to £20,000,000 by the creation of 5,500,000 additional ordinary shares, and to offer to the existing holders one new share at par in respect of every two held. As the present price of the shares is very nearly 8, the bonus offered can only be described as magnificent, for it means the equivalent of nearly £3 10s. per share. Last time it was only a beggarly 30s. or so, but it is significant that, although the new money was only brought into the business a few weeks before the close of the financial year, there was no difficulty in maintaining the dividend at 30 per cent. (tax free) although it had to be paid on a larger amount, and, indeed, as will be observed, the carry-forward was increased by nearly £1,400,000. It is also worth remarking that in the past two years profits have been struck after providing for Excess Duty, and yet they go soaring up in the most dazzling manner. Truly it is a wonderful business, and we are told that the net profits shown above do not include the Company's proportion of the undivided profits of the associated companies, which they have not thought fit to declare as dividends. Of course, according to the dictates of sound finance, it might have been more prudent to issue a smaller amount of new capital at a substantial premium that would have yielded the extra cash required for the expansion of the business and the heavier stocks which it is necessary to carry, but a concern that can make a net profit of nearly £4,000,000 (after paying excess duty) can afford to be a law unto itself. And when its assets total £31,500,000, including £4,137,000 of cash, there is not the least reason why it should not display a thoroughly independent spirit. Besides, the smoker pays, and the more he smokes the less is he (or she) disposed to grumble. So everybody ought to be happy—especially the shareholders.

Cotton Certificates.

On previous occasions I have had to animadvert on the activities of one J. Howard Harvey, of Manchester, who runs a team of wild cats, including the so-called Manchester Commercial "Bank," the Lancashire and Yorkshire Industrial Development Trust, the Foundation Share Exchange, etc. He is now inviting subscriptions for "cotton certificates" of £5 each, which he promises will be turned into £18 in the course of six months. I am afraid his promises are like pie-crusts, and I hope none of my readers has been humbugged by his twaddle.

Patent Fuel.

Every householder is painfully familiar with what is known as coal "slack." Those also who live in colliery districts are equally familiar with the huge dumps of small coal or "duff" to be seen at the pit heads. To convert such inferior stuff into fuel, equalling, if not excelling, in calorific value the best large coal, would seem to be the last word in economy. A process known as "lamination" has been discovered which, it is claimed, is capable of thus dealing with every kind of coal refuse far in advance of briquettes, whilst its cost is less than that of large coal. The objections to patent fuel in the past have been many and substantial, but here would seem to be a proposition worthy of serious consideration. A Company known as Laminated Coal, Ltd., has been formed to exploit the process with a capital of three-quarters of a million, divided into 250,000 8 per cent. tax-free Preference shares and half a million Ordinary shares. It is now proposed to issue 78,493 Preference shares to the public at par. The whole of the half-million Ordinary shares, in addition to 50,000 Preference and £15,000 cash, have been allotted to the vendor and patentee in satisfaction of his rights, so that the amount for which the public are asked to subscribe is relatively small. The Company, which is a parent concern, apparently derives its income from royalties, and it is stated that those already granted provide for an annual revenue, after erection of machinery, of nearly £140,000 per annum. The interest on the Preference shares would therefore seem to be well secured, and whilst the enterprise is of necessity a speculative one, it is possessed of great potentialities.

OUR FINANCIAL LETTER BAG.

EDITORIAL REPLIES.

(All enquiries must be accompanied by a postal order for 1s., and bear the full name and address of correspondent as evidence of good faith.)

Mrs. M. M. (Glasgow).—You may regard any money entrusted to Hatton Morris and Co. as lost. The shares are worthless.——J. T. (Doughty St.).—*J. & P. Coats:* The market has been rather depressed since the bonus issue, and you must hold on a little longer.——Mrs. M. A. B. (Worcester).—*Birmingham 2½ per cent.:* The present price is only about 50; you would not get quite half the nominal amount if you sold. I think you should keep it.——R. D. M. (Newcastle, Staffs).—*East Rand Orchards:* I do not advise a purchase unless you are going out to settle, and then you can deal on the spot.——T. L. (Banbridge).—*American Marconis:* There will probably be big developments. You should hold.——N. C. (Wolverhampton).—*Panama, Ottoman and Congo* bonds are all genuine. There is no market in them here at present.——C. E. B. (Carshalton).—*Gt. Western Ord.:* You are getting good interest on your money, so it would be a pity to sell at the present low price.——W. S. (Palmer's Green).—*Nimmer and Jack* and *Jupiter Gold* have a fairly free market, but they and the other shares mentioned are very speculative.——E. O. G. (Manchester).—*Summit Motor:* Do not touch the shares; they are no good.——A. T. S. (Hammersmith).—*Local Loans:* There is no prospect of a recovery in the near future, but I certainly do not advise you to sell at the present low price.——R. A. P. (Nanty).—*Associated County Hall and Theatres:* Thanks for documents and correspondence. The liquidator is quite right; shareholders cannot participate unless and until creditors (debenture holders, etc.) are paid in full.——YORKSHIRE (Birmingham).—*Aircraft Press:* There is no market in the shares, and I doubt very much whether you would be able to sell at the price paid. W. H. Barker and Co. are not, in my opinion, a reliable firm to do business with.——F. W. R. (Havant).—*War Loan:* Yes, your bank will sell for you. The commission will be something less than a sovereign.——CELT (Rhondda).—*Anglo-French Rubbers, etc.:* The outlook is not very promising, and you should sell at best.——J. W. (East Ham).—*Lever Bros. Preference, etc.:* These are quite sound investments. You should hold. No dividends were paid on *City of Antwerp* bonds during the war, and no drawings took place. Apply to the bankers, or to the Syndic, Hotel de Ville, Antwerp.——A. B. C. (Birmingham).—*Commercial Glass Works Preference:* I do not recommend a purchase.——J. D. (Glasgow).—The outlook for *Home* and *Argentine Rails* is hopeful. *Harrods* (*Buenos Aires*) and *South American Stores* are both good.——Mrs. J. O. (Luton).—I am afraid *Kywara* and *Diamontino Rubbers* are worthless. Something may be recovered from *Lamag Rubber* presently, but meantime you can only wait and keep in touch with the liquidator.——W. D. (Rosyth).—*Associated County Halls and Theatres:* The company is in liquidation, and I understand there will be nothing for the shareholders after the creditors are satisfied.——W. J. H. (Bangor).—*Chelsea Oil:* This property (situated on the Black Sea) was once regarded as very promising. Conditions, however, are so disturbed at present that the outlook is doubtful. The *French Loan* was largely over-subscribed, but dealings have been forbidden on the London Stock Exchange.——A. D. P. (Brighton).—*Handley Page:* Commercial flying will develop only slowly. Although this is one of the best concerns, I do not recommend holding the shares.——W. T. W. (Staple Inn).—*Arthur Wheeler and Co.:* The firm is quite safe to do business with. In fact, it is one of the largest industrial issuing houses in the country. *Napier* shares are a good industrial investment.

(A considerable number of replies are held over for lack of space, but every endeavour is being made to answer them promptly by post.)

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SHARE CAPITAL £150,000

DIVIDED INTO

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Issue of 100,000 Shares of 5/- each

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J. R. Beaver, M.I.M.E. (Beaver Proud Engineering Co., Santiago, Chile), 60, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.4.
W. H. Swift, A.I.M.M., Mining Engineer, 24, Broad Street House, London, E.C.2.

Bankers.

Lloyd's Bank, Limited (Finsbury Circus Branch), Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2.

Auditors.

Pattullo, Ford, and Co., Chartered Accountants, 65, London Wall, London, E.C.2.

Solicitors.

Romer and Skan, 4, Copthall Chambers, London, E.C.2.

Brokers.

H. T. Munro and Co., 23, Austin Friars, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

Secretary and Registered Office.

F. S. Keane, Friars House, 39-41, New Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Full Prospectuses (upon the terms of which alone applications will be received) and forms of application for shares can be obtained from the Company's Brokers, Solicitors, or at the Offices of the Company.

LOSING ONE'S HEAD.

If people would only realise the risks they run in exposing themselves to the chances of Venereal Disease, there would be much less misery and suffering in the world.

Losing one's head temporarily often means losing one's health permanently. In the face of the facts, the attitude of "I don't care" and "I'll risk it" is mere stupidity. Men and women who "don't care" and who "risk it" often find themselves saddled for years with a dreadful burden of disease. They may also be the means of passing on the infection to innocent people whom they love dearly.

"Having a drink" or "dining too well" is often the main factor in producing this spirit of bravado. Alcohol undermines the judgment, breaks down self-control, and allows recklessness to predominate. It also makes the actual treatment of these diseases more difficult.

All who are infected or who have taken a risk of infection should seek medical advice at once. Every hour counts.

Free treatment under conditions of secrecy is provided at the Out-Patients' Department of the nearest Hospital.

Those who are in any doubt or difficulty should write in confidence for information and free literature to N.C.C.V.D., 34, Avenue Chambers, Vernon Place, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1, marking the envelope "Medical." The National Council provides neither prescriptions nor drugs.

This announcement is issued by the National Council for combating Venereal Diseases, a responsible body recognised by the Government. President: Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham. Vice-Presidents: Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., K.C.V.O., M.D., Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D. Chairman of Propaganda: Sir Malcolm Morris, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S.E. General Secretary: Mrs. A. C. Gotto, O.B.E.

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will give you such a grip of the Keyboard and ease in reading ordinary music, that you shall play with spirit and feeling Songs, Marches, Dances, Hymns, and many of the famous Classical Gems.

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Real Lewis and Harris Tweeds; all wool, hand-woven material, 10/6 yard, width 28 and 30 ins., special quality 11/6, patterns submitted.—Mackie, 8, Church Street, Stornoway, Lewis.

PEDIGREE SEEDS.—Scotch Potatoes, Bulbs, Tools, etc. Reliable quality, reasonable prices. 64-page catalogue free.—Ellison's, West Bromwich. Estd. 1865.

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ENGINEERING.—Electrical, Mechanical, Motor Draughtsmanship, Aero Engines, Mathematics. We teach by post any of these subjects. Complete Reference Library supplied free with each course. Excellent opportunity for apprentices. Name your subject and write for our Free Book explaining our System of Teaching.—The Technological Institute of Great Britain, Ltd. (Dept. 25), 233, Strand, London.

ACCOUNTANCY, SECRETARYSHIP, BUSINESS TRAINING.—An appointments bureau (free) is open to all qualified students of the Metropolitan College—the Varsity of Secretarial and Accountancy Training. Specialised Postal Courses (practical training and examining) taken at home in spare time, under the most highly qualified staff in the Kingdom, comprising many Final Honoursmen, Chartered Accountants and Barristers-at-Law. Fees are most moderate, and may be paid by instalments. Write to-day (postcard will suffice) for list of recent appointments vacant, particulars of scholarship scheme and copy of "Student's Guide," free of charge or obligation.—Metropolitan College, Dept. 23, St. Albans.

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BATTLEFIELDS BUREAU, LTD.—RELATIVES and FRIENDS requiring WAR GRAVES PHOTOS should write to CAPTAIN FREEBODY, Manager, Photo. (Dept. 7), 66, GRAND PLACE, MENIN, BELGIUM.

THE PILL THAT WON THE WAR.—Lockwood's Invaluable Remedy for constipation. PRICE ONE SHILLING AND THREEPENCE PER BOX, POST FREE. Lester Lockwood, Ltd., 94, Cannon St., London, E.C.4.

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Household Magic for Chaps, Chilblains, Colds, Cuts and Burns, is only 1/6 per tin. Homocea Ointment touches the spot (all Chemists and stores). Free sample 1½d.—Homocea, Willesden, N.W.10.

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No Change of Diet Required.

This cure was not given to our Great Uncle by a faithful Brahmin, neither was it found by accident in the Rockies by a sick traveller. It is simply the prescription of a celebrated physician (deceased) and it will cure INDIGESTION, FLATULENCE, HEARTBURN, PALPITATION and CONSTIPATION. One lot sufficient, it will speak for itself. Send 3s. to

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"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, INSURANCE POLICIES, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 93, Long Acre, W.C. 2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, *or* LEGAL *enquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other enquiries. Full names and addresses should be given.*

MR. CHARLES PALMER takes this opportunity of thanking the very large number of readers who have written to wish him success in his campaign in the Wrekin Division.

A. W. S. (Kingston-on-T.).—Don't worry about the "Peace Fellowship of Wesleyan Methodists." If they'd been left to win the war, they'd have had no peace.

"L.R.C.P." (Hornsey).—Well, demanding the Kaiser is a long way from hanging him, isn't it?

A. W. P. (Rathmines).—"When Horatio, the man of some brains, Takes over the Government reins, He'll run on the straight, For the State, Quite regardless of personal gains." Lady, you are among the prophets.

T. G. (Leicester).—We shall, of course, take into review National Health problems as they arise. We have not the expanse of the *Times*, however.

C. W. B. (St. Buryan).—"I sincerely hope Palmer will be successful in his candidature for Wreckin." There will probably be some wreckin' among the dud M.P.s if he is.

S. F. (Hackney).—On the whole, we would much rather the Government hanged the big wholesale profiteers than that the Tribunals should order the little ones to refund a few farthings.

T. B. (Bloomsbury).—Your idea to remove the Duke of York's column, to make way for the new Cenotaph, is picturesque. But we think the public mind is fixed on the original site, which is known world-wide.

R. K. (Maida Hill).—"I have heard the opinion expressed that the appointment of women 'J.P.s' is a part of the 'Pussyfoot' intrigue." With the idea that the dear creatures will scratch the poor publican on licensing day, eh?

F. G. (Lincoln).—Only too pleased to have helped in any way the Pearl agents in their fight for a living wage.

J. A. (Southend-on-Sea).—"There seems to be a great diversity of opinion respecting the ex-Kaiser." Not at 93, Long Acre.

E. J. H. (Cheshire).—Your etter to hand criticising our grammar. B'ess your chubby cheek!

"NOT A BOLSHIE" (Doncaster).—We should not describe the *Daily Herald* as a "howling success," its constant appeals for capital being a confession of commercial failure.

H. K. (Dovercourt) would like to know why Mr. Asquith has received the three war medals. For extinguished conduct off the field.

H. A. S. (London) saw "After Church, rest awhile" displayed as a notice outside a picture palace, and objects to it as "sacrilege." Not quite the right word.

R. A. C. (Liverpool).—If you can settle all the anomalies, inequalities and tangles at elections in one pop, you are as smart a man as any.

R. G. B. (Worcester).—If the offer of the Worcester Union of 25s. a week for a Workhouse Master's clerk (living out) is not a mistake, it is a scandal. Knowing something of Boards of Guardians, we are afraid it is not a mistake.

S. A. D. (Cricklewood).—Far from insulting you, the firm treated you with kindness in returning your stamped envelope so that you might use it again.

"JAMAICAN" (Streatham Hill).—"Don't mention Cuba." We shall if we like, so there!

E. F. (Portman Square, W.).—Cannot undertake to transmit "hints" to the Royal Family. Either we spit it right out, or leave it.

B. H. (Birkenhead).—The regular reading of JOHN BULL need not preclude the devout pondering of the Scriptures. Your lady friend was talking through her toque.

A. R. (Birmingham).—Although we have had no time to read more than a square yard or so of your letter, the story of the Rector's misdoings has pained us more than we can say.

G. W. (Bolingbroke Grove, S.W.).—As a "constant reader" you should know that we have insistently demanded sterner penalties in cases of assault and outrage upon defenceless women and children.

F. A. E. G. (Cardiff).—If that hairdresser you speak of in Cardiff charges 2s. 6d. for cutting the hair of a child 2½ years old, what on earth would be his price in the case of a man of 70?

A. H. C. (Westminster).—What, put the ex-Kaiser on the *Deutschland* with us as guard? We're afraid the Busted Bully of Berlin wouldn't be safe.

"MAY" (Edinburgh).—"The greatest gamble I know is the National Health Insurance; paid into it the first five years and never had any benefit." A gamble under compulsion.

"LISBURN" (Ireland).—A shocking case of cruelty, but unfortunately there are so many that we could not cover them all without sickening monotony.

G. H. J. (Yorks).—A queer sort of a Yorkshireman to fight in the Yankee Navy instead of your own. But there is no accounting for taste.

H. W. (Bradford) left an arm and a leg in France and then came home for freedom to find—Pussyfoot! Let him be comforted. A lot of water will pass under the bridges before he has to go dry.

G. G. T. (Brixton).—Never argue against a success. "When I see a rattlesnaix's head sticking out of a hole," said Artemus Ward, "I know that hole belongs to that snaix."

"A SYMPATHISER" (Wexford).—If, as you state, the Irish Lights Commissioners are placing lightships over sixty years old on some stations, they are guilty of dark deeds.

J. R. E. G. (Mentone).—The law proposing to exclude foreigners from employment in French hotels might usefully be copied on this side of the Channel.

M. G. (Battersea Park).—The death of poor Twells Brex is, as you say, a tragic reminder of the little headway made in combating the cancer scourge.

"TOMMY" (Salisbury).—There is something in your contention that there should be a man in charge of every Post Office. Also, when appointed, he should keep a civil tongue in his head.

"NEWLY-RICH" (Anglesea).—We note that you have always "kept John Barleycorn in his place," meaning, we suppose, under the fifth waistcoat button.

H. J. (East Dulwich).—Your objections to the Shop Hours' Act have been constantly emphasised in JOHN BULL. Perhaps you do your reading too late at night.

"SCOTTIE" (Glasgow).—The law that forbids marriage with a deceased husband's brother is an absurd anachronism which cannot much longer survive.

G. F. R. (Liverpool).—A grocer who refuses to change a bad egg for which he was paid 5d. should be forced to eat it for breakfast.

"OUT RELIEF" (Llanelly). — If the Relieving Officer said he had an application for out-relief from a family with total earnings £14 a week, we believe him.

A. R. (Ramsgate).—The question is not as to the number of collieries, but of getting the coal out and away.

J. R. (N. Heaton).—If you can prove the cheap jack auctioneers obtain money by false pretences, inform the police.

G. W. (Thornton Heath) and MANY OTHER railwaymen contradict the statement of night operators in the London Telephone Exchanges that the lowest paid railway servant receives £2 a week and war bonus—24s. to 26s. with £1 13s. war bonus being by no means uncommon. The telephonists do not, of course, improve their case by making inaccurate comparisons.

"BOLSHY" (Spitalfields).—There is always a to-morrow. Don't forget that Lenin is neither Shadrach, Meshach nor Abednego.

L. B. T. (Annan).—The old rhyme tells us that when wrongs are righted the soldier is slighted. Judging by your experience the same thing applies to the Land Army.

"JACK" (W. Ealing).—"Just a few lines to let you know there is still profiteering going on." You have the eagle eye that misses nothing.

"EX-SOLDIER" (Liverpool).—"At the Sailors' Home, Mercy Mission, Liverpool, they refused to serve me with a cup of tea because I was not a seaman. Blacks, Chinks, Asiatics and all other races were given what they wanted." If that is a "rule" at the Home, it is one which should occasionally be honoured in the breach.

C. J. L. (Newbury).—We have no objection to the spire of St. Stephen's, Westminster, which was damaged by air raids, being allowed to remain in its present mutilated condition as a memorial of German infamy.

"ONE OF THE MINORITY" (India).—If the new Arms Act prevents you from carrying a revolver, you must either learn ju-jitsu or go armed with a carving knife.

W. F. (Victoria Docks).—We note that you are in receipt of twins, but short of the maternity benefit. Why not appeal to the local Insurance Committee?

E. L. T. (Sidcup).—It is true, as you point out, that the figures 1919 total 20, but we do not "take it as an omen." If they totalled a couple of thousand we might be a bit jumpy about it.

T. B. (Belfast).—Offered fifteen shillings a week as a club steward indeed! And if you had used strong language, they would probably have run you in.

"INVENTOR."—We have heard very little of the Inventors' Union of late, but are making inquiries.

C. L. (Streatham) and MANY OTHERS:—Thanks for calling our attention to the mis-spelling in our pages of the name of the well-known tonic Phosferine. It shows how keenly our advertisements are watched.

A. R. (Buckie).—Immediately after reading your eulogistic verses we took the precaution of sending for a larger hat.

T. S. (Bushey).—"Some of the warrant officers dress themselves up in Sam Brownes with the idea of getting a salute." The idea!

C. J. C. (Toledo, Ohio).—"I never bought your paper; wouldn't buy it." What abaht it? We never asked you to.

F. C. (London).—Anonymous letters defeat their own object. If you withhold your name and address, how can we test your statements?

W. D. (New Barnet) denounces as a scandalous waste of public money the P.O. purchase of the Holborn section of the Inns of Court Hotel and the project of razing it to the ground for the purpose of rebuilding a new telephone exchange.

J. S. (Oldham).—We quite believe you are poor, for you failed to stamp your letter.

"HIGHER WALTON."—We agree with many poor mothers that it would be real cruelty to make them keep their "children" at school until 18.

"SUFFERER" (Ireland).—We should have thought that, as butler to a County Court Judge, your husband had a "cushy" job, but if your statements are correct, his wages are a lot too skimpy.

(Continued on page 28.)

HOW TO ECONOMISE!

A Simple Sum.

The "John Bull" Pen (STANDARD MODEL) - - - worth **10/6**

Our Price (with 7 Coupons) - - - - **2/3**

You Save - - - **8/3**

For an actual reproduction of this Pen see page iii of Cover.

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon, Value 2d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 2/3, and 1½d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "John Bull" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "John Bull" from this date may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus you may send 7 coupons and P.O. for 2/3 only, and 1½d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1/3 Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2 *(Jan. 31, 1920)*

P.O.s should be made payable to John Bull, Ltd., and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

Letter Bag—Continued.

"A RATEPAYER" (Abertillery).—If you are correct in saying that the rates of Abertillery (without water) amount to 21s. 4d. in the £, and this under a Labour District Council and a Labour Board of Guardians, people who don't live there have much to be thankful for.

W. C. (London, E.).—Can you produce any evidence in support of your assertion that your dead sister was robbed of her wedding-ring while lying in the mortuary?

"BABY'S FRIEND" (Eastbourne).—If you can prove that anyone is putting "dirty water" in the milk, you should inquire at the police station for the address of the Food and Drugs Inspector.

"UNEMPLOYED."—So you think the ex-Kaiser was the "smartest man in the world" because he "found a job for everybody." In view of your *nom-de-plume*, there is a sting to your wit.

S. B. (Watford) suggests that an electric gong should be affixed above the street doors of post offices so that they could be rung from inside in case of a sudden hold-up.

G. F. B. (Cheltenham).—Discharged Colonels commit suicide because they cannot find work, and ex-"Waacs" are employed by the Government in civil capacities in Germany at £1 a day. It would be comical if it were not cruel.

"LIVE AND LET LIVE" (Coatdyke).—We certainly do not think it right for anyone to be "sat on every way he turns." Where would they be if he turned a somersault?

"LATE LIEUT." (E.).—30s. a week for 3 rooms in a house rented at 15s. is simple robbery. But that is the game now—till we succeed in stopping it.

"SERGEANT."—Only a little while ago Patrol Scouts of the A.A. thanked us for helping them to an increase in wages, and we hoped all now was peace. Certainly yours is the first complaint since.

"VOYAGEUR" (Margate).—"Germany is behind Prohibition." There is certainly something Hun-natural about compulsory pussyfootism.

F. W. G. (Exeter).—Sorry we are so little versed in the details of feminine attire as to have no knowledge of the "complete articles" in which the lady was to be photographed.

F. C. (Chelmsford).—Finding a cheque is not quite like picking up cash, but one apple was certainly a poor reward. A pear would have been nicer.

R. D. C. (Grimsby).—Afraid we cannot solve your "knotty problem concerning Princess Pat" that "cropped up at a Christmas Party." Besides, you should have written sooner.

H. C. C. (Brighton).—If going to the picture palace means "sitting on the floor," we advise you to stay at home and sit on the sofa.

J. W. (Portadown).—The Irish Labour Party betrays its Sinn Fein sympathies in calling-off labour from all motor vehicle repairs.

J. T. (Clapton).—It is scarcely correct to speak of a "Bullets" prize as "a kind present." You may take it from us that competitors get nothing "for love."

GLADYS G. (Cambridge).—". . . to ask if you could help me to get on the stage or to be a film actress as I am longing to be one. My age is 12 years. Write back as soon as possible. Your affectionate friend." Bide a wee, girlie.

"SPARROW" (Holbeck).—"Ref. your question, 'Who Killed John Simon?' I did. With my bow and arrow." The bow you draw is a long one.

"EX-P.C." (Roche).—Retiring from the police force on 31st March last, you missed the increased pension rate by one day. That is about as hard a case as any in the Kingdom, yet the Home Office will do nothing. Your County Constabulary should move on your behalf.

J. H. C. (King's Lynn).—Your local employer of labour who declared that he wouldn't have an ex-soldier as watchman under any consideration, was properly answered when reminded that the ex-soldier had been his watchman—in France. The man with such a poor opinion of his defenders is the one who wants watching.

J. J. H. (Worthing).—Agreed that the effect of the "cat" should be tried in cases of persistent cruelty to children.

E. S. (Salford).—Your efforts to counteract Bolshevism locally are worthy of all support, and we are glad to hear of the assistance you have received from JOHN BULL readers.

E. F. S. (New Eltham).—We understand postwomen are now only retained in circumstances where dismissal would involve grave hardship and injustice.

"A REGULAR READER" (Tooting).—"The pub barman is at it all the time, not less than 70 hours a week." Bad enough, but it used to be worse.

J. W. (Bermuda).—For "complete scale of English seamen's wages" you should apply to the Board of Trade, or the leading British shipping companies, although we take it as a delicate compliment that you should have asked us first.

"HALF A CHANCE" (Liverpool).—"You are pretty cute." Kind of you to say so, but as you mark your anonymous letter "Confidential," we are prevented from making your opinion more widely known.

E. L. (Rochdale).—"Close all cinemas, theatres and music halls, stop killing live stock and poultry and birds, set all wild animals free, turn me out of this perfect country." Judging by the rest of your letter, your last suggestion seems advisable, if not the others.

W. M. (Frittenden).—"Forty-eight ex-Service men sat down to a really excellent dinner at the Bell Inn"—*at their own expense*. We hope somebody proposed a vote of thanks for the generosity of the local residents in permitting this peace celebration to take place.

J. R. (Belfast).—We could hardly secure public adoption of proposed new title for the Prince of Wales. After all, you must let him have some say in such a matter.

MRS. D. (Streatham) wishes to intimate to her husband that the past will be forgiven if he cares to return home.

"NATIVE" (Sheffield).—When we spoke of "cheap and nasty things from Sheffield" we naturally intended no personal allusion. A bit touchy, aren't you?

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

CAN YOU DRIVE A MOTOR CAR?

An Indispensable Work for Every Owner, Driver or Chauffeur

The Book of the Motor-Car is the first really comprehensive work on motor-cars, motor-cycles, and cycle-cars ever published.

DRIVING AND REPAIRS.

The Book is full of invaluable information on all problems of driving and repairing a car, instructions being given for all possible difficulties in language that can be understood by the most unmechanical mind. The following are a few of the subjects dealt with:—

Cylinders, valves of all kinds, different types of engines, carburettors, ignition, silencers, gears and clutches, radiators, cooling systems, brakes, lubrication, lighting systems, artillery and wire wheels, tyres, fuels and how to use them, tools, and repair appliances, etc., etc.

CYCLE-CARS AND MOTOR-CYCLES

The work pays full attention to motor-cycles and cycle-cars, full details and instruction being given for all those points wherein they must be treated differently from the more powerful motor-car. In these and all other respects the Book of the Motor-car is in line with the very latest discoveries in motor engineering. It is profusely illustrated with full-page plates, diagrams and photographs, as well as a series of sectional movable models in colour showing in detail the actual working parts of a car.

FREE BOOKLET

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
141, Surrey Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Please send me, free of charge, Illustrated Booklet describing "The Book of the Motor-Car."

Name .....

(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

CAN MUSIC BE SELF-TAUGHT?

Many readers must have wished they could play some musical instrument, but have been deterred from learning by the expense and inconvenience of taking lessons from a music master.

The publication of the Musical Educator will come as a boon, for it contains in compact and interesting form a complete musical education. It is written by the greatest authorities, including:—

PADEREWSKI.—"The Best Way to Study the Piano."

MARK HAMBOURG.—"The Piano and How to Play It."

CARUSO.—"The Cultivation of the Voice."

CLARA BUTT.—"How to Sing a Song."

MADAME MARCHESI. — "The Teaching of Singing."

JOHN DUNN.—"On Playing the Violin."

SIR F. H. COWEN.—"The Art of Conducting."

EDWIN H. LEMARE. — "The Art of Organ Playing."

Every branch of Musical Culture is dealt with by an expert.

Course of Voice Training, Singing and Solfeggio. Course on the Pianoforte. Course on the Violin. Course on Harmonium and American Organ. Course on the Organ. Lessons on Scientific Basis of Music. Rudiments of Music. Harmony and Counterpoint. Canon and Fugue. Musical Forms, Musical Analysis and Composition, Dictionary of Musical Terms, Articles on the Instruments used in Orchestras and in Military Bands. Children's Music and Musical Drill. Choir Training and Conducting. Congregational Music. Musical Degrees and Education.

FREE BOOKLET

The Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
141, SURREY STREET, LONDON, W.C.2.

Please send me, free of charge, Illustrated Booklet, "The Musical Educator."

Name .....

(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

A REMARKABLE HISTORY OF THE WAR.

You have read history at school and since, but it was dead history. You have followed reports of international diplomacy, but they were remote, incomprehensible to anyone but the professed student of politics. In the "Caxton History of the Great War" you are supplied with all the knowledge of a diplomat, and it reads like a novel, but more absorbing than any fiction ever conceived by the mind of man. In the "Caxton History" the strategic conception behind every campaign, and every move in that campaign, becomes comprehensible. Battles that, even if you were engaged in them, were a blind series of movements, having no visible object, are shown in a new light. For the first time the military genius which determined them is made comprehensible.

The "Caxton History" has been written by Naval and Military experts, including Major-General Sir F. Maurice (late Director of Military Operations), Right Hon. C. F. G. Masterman (late Director of Propaganda), Lieut.-Colonel Repington (late Chief Military Expert of the *Times*), Captain Wedgwood Benn, D.S.O., M.P., Mr. Arthur Pollen (the famous writer on Naval Affairs), Sir Hedley Le Bas (on "The Raising of Kitchener's Army").

In the "Caxton History of the Great War" you will read the secret history of the War. It will tell the true story of the retreat of the Fifth Army. It will tell the true story of the Battle of Jutland. It will deal with the relations between our Soldiers and the Politicians. It will tell the story of the smashing of the Hindenburg Line—the greatest military feat in history. It will deal with the dismissal of Lord Jellicoe from the Admiralty and the dismissal of General Sir William Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

FREE BOOKLET

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
141, Surrey Street, London, W.C.2.

Please send me, free of charge, detailed Illustrated Booklet of "The Caxton History of the Great War."

Name .....

(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BUSINESS?

To the thoughtless, the easy-going, or the very young man this question may, at first glance, seem an insult.

Such a one would answer in an off-handed sort of way: "Why, I am in Business. I am a Business man. I know all about Business, or I ought to do so."

Ay, there's the rub! He ought to do. But does he?

Let us put the same question to you.

What do you know about Advertising, Accountancy, Auditing, Agreements, Banking, County Court Procedure, Commercial Law, Company Law, Law of Contract, Debt Collection, Office Organisation, Insurance, Landlord and Tenant, Bankruptcy, How to Open a Business, How to Extend a Business, etc., etc.

To thoroughly understand these and other important business subjects you must have the Business Encyclopædia.

It contains hundreds of business articles written by the most successful business men of the day. Among these are: Sir Woodman Burbidge (Managing Director, Harrods Stores), A. W. Gamage, John Lawrie (Managing Director, William Whiteley, Ltd.), Sir Joseph Lyons, H. G. Selfridge, and many others.

Messrs. J. S. FRY & SONS, Ltd.:—

"We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work. It is THE work par *excellence* for every business man to possess."

Mr. G. W. READ, Clerk, Fortnam Road, London, N.:—

"I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

FREE BOOKLET

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
141, Surrey Street, London, W.C.2.

Please send me, free of charge, a copy of the book describing the "Business Encyclopædia."

Name .....

(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

YOUR LAST CHANCE!

'Bullets' Breaks all records!

FIRST £1,000 PRIZE

2ND PRIZE £250 — 3RD PRIZE £100

Over 8,000 Prizes value £2,100 must be won!

10 PRIZES of £5 each — **10 PRIZES of £2-10 each**

100 PRIZES of £1 each

400 Prizes of 5/- each — **1,000 Prizes of 2/6 each**

and **7,000 "TARGET" PRIZES**

Closing Date, Thursday, February 5th.

Example_____
Bullet
Example_____
Bullet

(362) P.O. No._____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 1 coupon is used P.O. for 6d. must be sent.

Signed_____
Address_____

☞ IF UNABLE TO SECURE EXTRA COUPONS YOU CAN WRITE YOUR "BULLETS" ON PLAIN PAPER.

Closing Date, Thursday, February 5th.

Example_____
Bullet
Example_____
Bullet

(362) P.O. No._____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 2 coupons are used P.O. for 1/- must be sent.

Signed_____
Address_____

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS" No 332. "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

Closing Date, Thursday, February 5th.

Example_____
Bullet
Example_____
Bullet

(362) P.O. No._____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 3 coupons are used P.O. for 1/6 must be sent.

Signed_____
Address_____

Closing Date, Thursday, February 5th.

Example_____
Bullet
Example_____
Bullet

(362) P.O. No._____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 4 coupons are used P.O. for 2s. must be sent.

Signed_____
Address_____

List of 10s. Prizewinners in "Bullets" Competition 360 will be published in next week's "Competitors Journal." Complete List of all Cash and Other Prizewinners can be seen at the Offices of "John Bull."

Result of "Bullets" Competition No. 360 will be found on the opposite page.

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose any of the Forty examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the example chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with any letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. This example will guide you: Example:—NOT TO BE TRUSTED. Bullet:—FRITZ AFTER SIGNING TREATY. Competitors may send in two **BULLETS** for sixpence. If more coupons are used, an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent. Result of this Competition will be found in our issue dated Feb. 21st.

EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 362.

LLOYD GEORGE'S FUTURE	WHY BOTTOMLEY'S POPULAR
STRONG MAN	UP TO SCRATCH
THE RIGHT CANDIDATE	NO GOOD
COALITION GOVERNMENT	MAKING FOR HOME
NOT SO EASY	LABOUR'S DAY
GOING WRONG	MATTER OF MOMENT
IN THE TUBE	TAKES THE BISCUIT
STANDING ROUND	NOT THIS YEAR
BRITISH WORKERS	SILLY TRICK
MAKING IT HOT	GERMAN DODGES
FORGETTING	THE NEXT WAR
PRETTY GENERAL	BETTER HALF
GETTING THE PICK	BAD FOR US
MEAN BUSINESS	MOST RESULTING WHEN
FULL INSIDE	WASTING AWAY
FAIR POSER	LOOKING FOR FLAT
NOT TO BE TRUSTED	ALWAYS WRONG
GOVERNMENT BUILDING	THE RED FLAG
FORBIDDEN	DANGER SIGNAL
LONG AND SHORT	HARD AT WORK

BULLETS RULES.

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. All four coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed _____ and Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner.
4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned to their respective senders.
5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.
6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

THE JOHN BULL GREAT FREE FIRE INSURANCE

COVERING ALL RISKS BY FIRE TO HOME, LIFE & LIMB.

UNDER this most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER anyone above the age of 10 can be insured irrespective of sex. The premium charge by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company to secure similar benefits would certainly exceed 5s. per annum. We offer it to you absolutely free.

We have made our insurance as simple and comprehensive as possible, and shall not bother about any "Legal representative" or "next of kin." Claims will be paid to the registered reader, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else.

A separate coupon must be filled up in respect to each person to be insured.

This offer applies only to persons residing in, and property situated in, England, Scotland, and Wales.

The full conditions governing this scheme will be published in the first issue of each month.

WHAT WE WILL PAY:

For Damage to contents of Home by Fire up to	£200
In case of Death directly due to Fire at Registered Reader's home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or Both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye ..	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries not proving fatal but incapacitating the injured person from following his or her employment, up to ..	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 13 weeks..	£1 per week

ORDER FORM
To be Retained by Newsagent.

To .....
Newsagent.

Please deliver "JOHN BULL" to me regularly until further notice

Signed .....

Address .....

Jan. 31, 1920

You must also fill in the Registration Form which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL Insurance Dept. 20, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM
Which must be posted to—
JOHN BULL INSURANCE DEPT., Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent, of

.....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the event of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee .....

Address .....

Signature of Insured .....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Home Address .....

Jan. 31, 1920.

To remain qualified for the benefits, readers must continue to have "John Bull" regularly supplied to them.

Enclose 1d. stamp if an acknowledgment of receipt of Registration Form is required.

£5,450 ALREADY PAID OUT!

A BIG PRIZE MUST BE WON EVERY WEEK.

£250 MUST BE WON!

FOR TEN WINNING TEAMS

OR NEXT LARGEST NUMBER OF WINNING TEAMS.

Our Weekly Football Competition is the simplest and best, and ONLY appears in this paper. The sum of £250 will be paid to the sender of ten winning teams selected from those given on the coupon on this page. Should no competitor succeed in giving ten winning teams, the prize of £250 will be awarded to the sender of the next largest number of winning teams. This competition is open for one week, and coupons can only be taken from this week's issue.

£250 must be won THIS WEEK; send in YOUR coupon without delay.

NO ENTRANCE FEE—GREAT ONE-WEEK COMPETITION.

THIS COMPETITION IS EXCLUSIVE TO "JOHN BULL."

Coupons do not appear in any other paper.

The competition is quite free, no entrance fee of any kind being charged. Competitors can send as many coupons as they like. Scottish and Irish readers may compete. A careful study of football form should be made before filling in coupons. The "National News" gives the best and most accurate reports and forecasts every Sunday, which should prove of great assistance to intending competitors.

Cut out coupon neatly and address all entries as follows:—"Football Competition No. 21, JOHN BULL, 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2." Write "Football" in top left-hand corner of envelope. All coupons can be enclosed in one envelope, but this must not contain entries for other competitions.

YOU CAN SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

For result of Football Competition No. 18 see Page 16.

Read these Rules Carefully.

(1) All attempts must be made on coupons taken from the issue of JOHN BULL announcing this competition. Coupons must be written in ink (typewriting or pencil will not be allowed), and must be filled up in accordance with the instructions given on this page.

(2) The sum of £250 (Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds) will be paid to the sender of a coupon giving any ten winning teams from amongst those playing on February 7th, given on the coupon on this page and as set out on that coupon. If no competitor succeeds in giving ten winning teams the prize of £250 will be paid to the sender of the next largest number of winning teams as described above. If two or more competitors succeed in giving ten winning teams, or failing that, succeed in sending the next largest number of winning teams, the £250 will be divided equally amongst them.

(3) Should any match not be played to a finish on the date given or as set out on the coupon, it will be disregarded, and winning teams from the remaining fixtures only will be allowed to count.

(4) **Any coupon which has marked upon it more than ten Xs or less than ten Xs will be disqualified.**

(5) No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any coupon. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery or receipt. No correspondence will be entered into nor will interviews be granted.

(6) Any coupon on which an alteration of any kind has been made will be disqualified.

(7) Our employees are debarred from entering the competition.

(8) Any coupons received later than Thursday, February 5th will be disqualified.

(9) The Editor's decision must be accepted as final and legally binding in all matters concerning this competition, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

HOW TO MARK YOUR COUPONS.

If you think the "Home" team will win put a X in the left-hand column headed "Home Win"; if you think the "Away" team will win put a X in the right-hand column headed "Away Win." Only ten teams must be marked in all. If more or less than ten Xs appear on any one coupon it will be disqualified. Coupons MUST be written in ink.

"JOHN BULL" FREE FOOTBALL COUPON.

Matches to be played Saturday, February 7th. Coupons must reach us not later than Thursday, February 5th.

Home Win	Home Team		Away Team	Away Win
	Blackburn Rovers	v.	Liverpool	
	Bradford City	v.	Newcastle United	
	Derby County	v.	Middlesbrough	
	Everton	v.	Aston Villa	
	Manchester City	v.	Burnley	
	Blackpool	v.	Tottenham Hotspur	
	Coventry City	v.	Wolverhampton W.	
	Grimsby Town	v.	Notts Forest	
	Leicester City	v.	Stockport County	
	Rotherham County	v.	Bury	
	Brighton and H.A.	v.	Reading	
	Northampton	v.	Merthyr Town	
	Newport County	v.	Bristol Rovers	
	Norwich City	v.	Southend United	
	Albion Rovers	v.	Dumbarton	
	Hibernians	v.	Motherwell	

Coupons must be cut—not torn out.

I enter "John Bull" Football Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions on this page and agree to accept the Editor's decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

SIGNED .....

21 ADDRESS .....

.....

Result of 200th 'Bullets' Competition

FIRST PRIZE OF £250:

Mr. JAS. C. DOGIE,
48, Lauder Road, Edinburgh.
Example:—MADE IN GERMANY.
Bullet:—THE GOODS—NOT LABELS.

SECOND PRIZE OF £20:

Mr. JOSEPH RATCLIFFE,
93, Crawford Avenue, Sefton Park, Liverpool.
Example:—WHAT PUZZLES ME.
Bullet:—NATIONAL POVERTY, INDIVIDUAL PROSPERITY.
(Sent in on a Free "Target" Prize Coupon.)

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:

Mr. R. BROOKS,
47, Brobdd Street, Hardhurst, Manchester.
Example:—WISDOM'S A JOY.
Bullet:—TURNED TO "TAKE ANYTHING."

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(in Stomach & Bowel)

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If you are suffering from Indigestion, whatever the cause may be, you are likely to think that a remedy which cures others may not suit your case because you think yours is different, and your symptoms may be different; but the root causes of all cases of uncomplicated Indigestion are always the same, that is, there is not enough of the Digestive Ferments which Nature must have to digest the Albuminous food in the Stomach and also to digest the Starchy food in the Bowel.

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Pair of English made full double bed size heavy white Blankets.
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